



Elizabeth & Victoria

Britain's Two Greatest Queens

Young loves and family secrets

**Inside glorious palaces
and castles**

**Royal fashion
through the ages**

The future Windsors

**The true stories behind
The Crown and *Victoria***



Claire Foy
The Crown



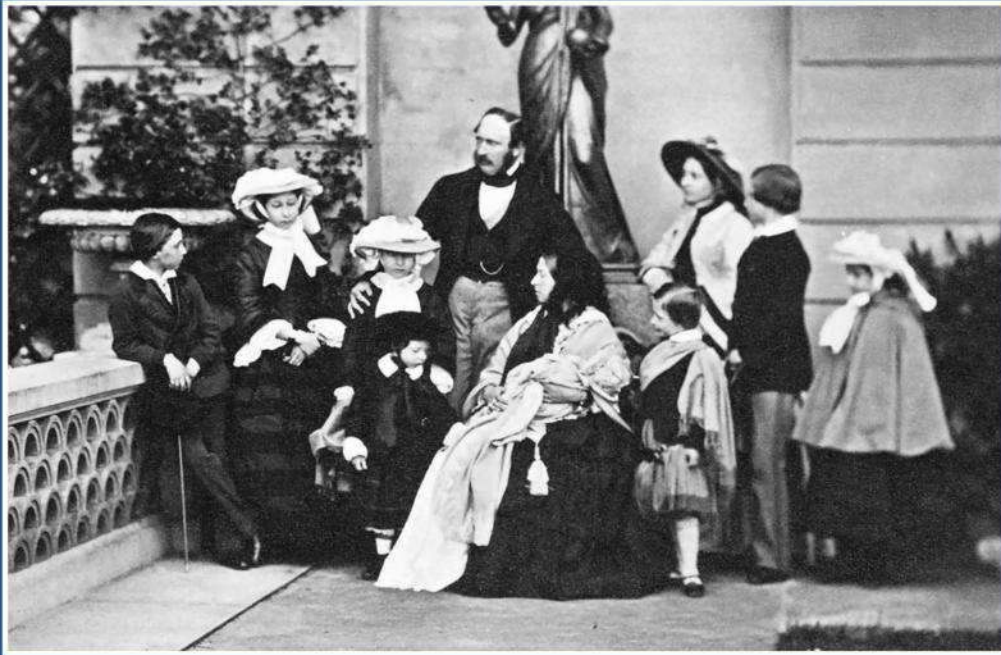
Jenna Coleman
Victoria





Elizabeth & Victoria

Two queens who changed the world



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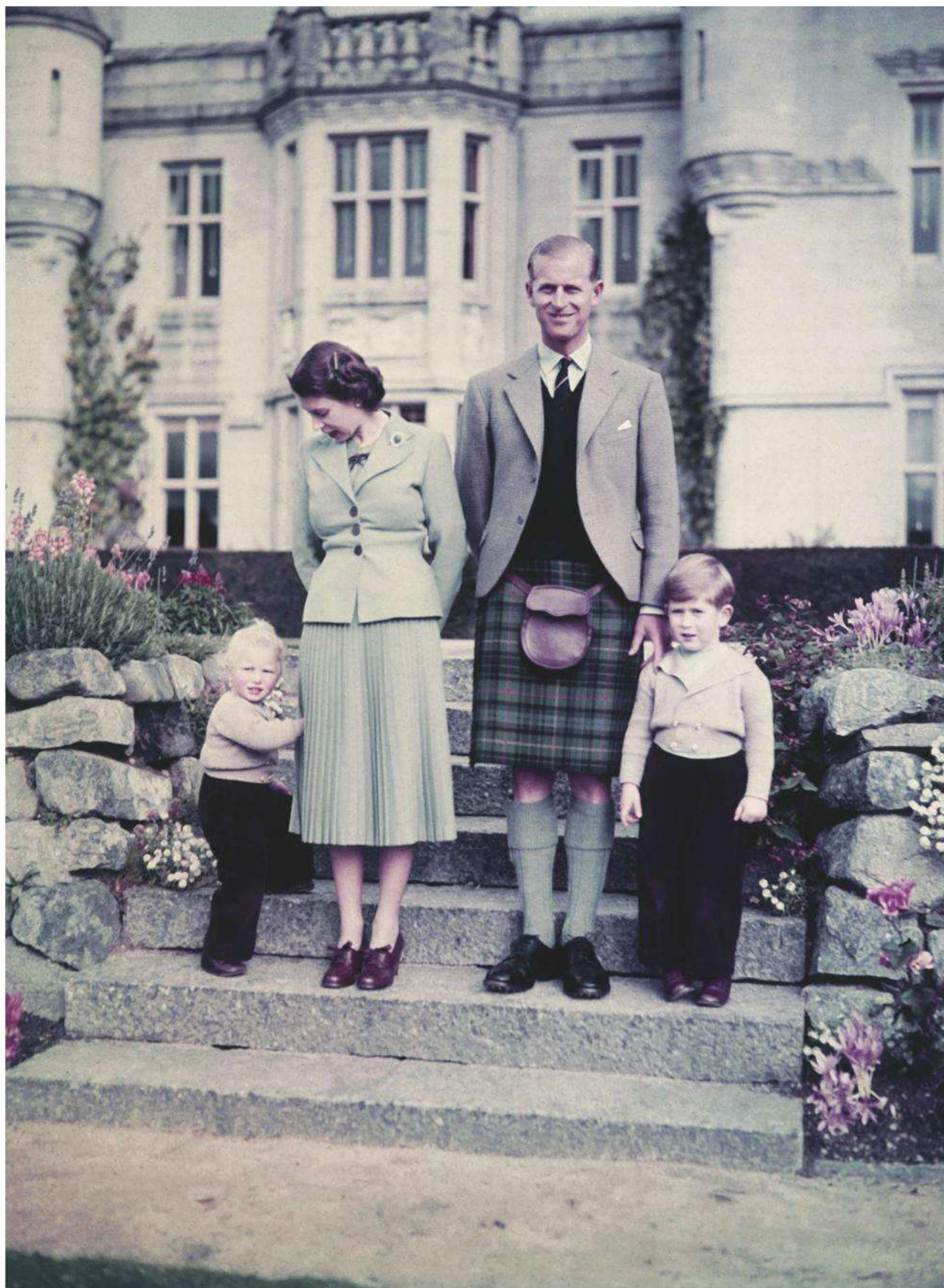
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Elizabeth & Victoria

Britain's Two Greatest Queens

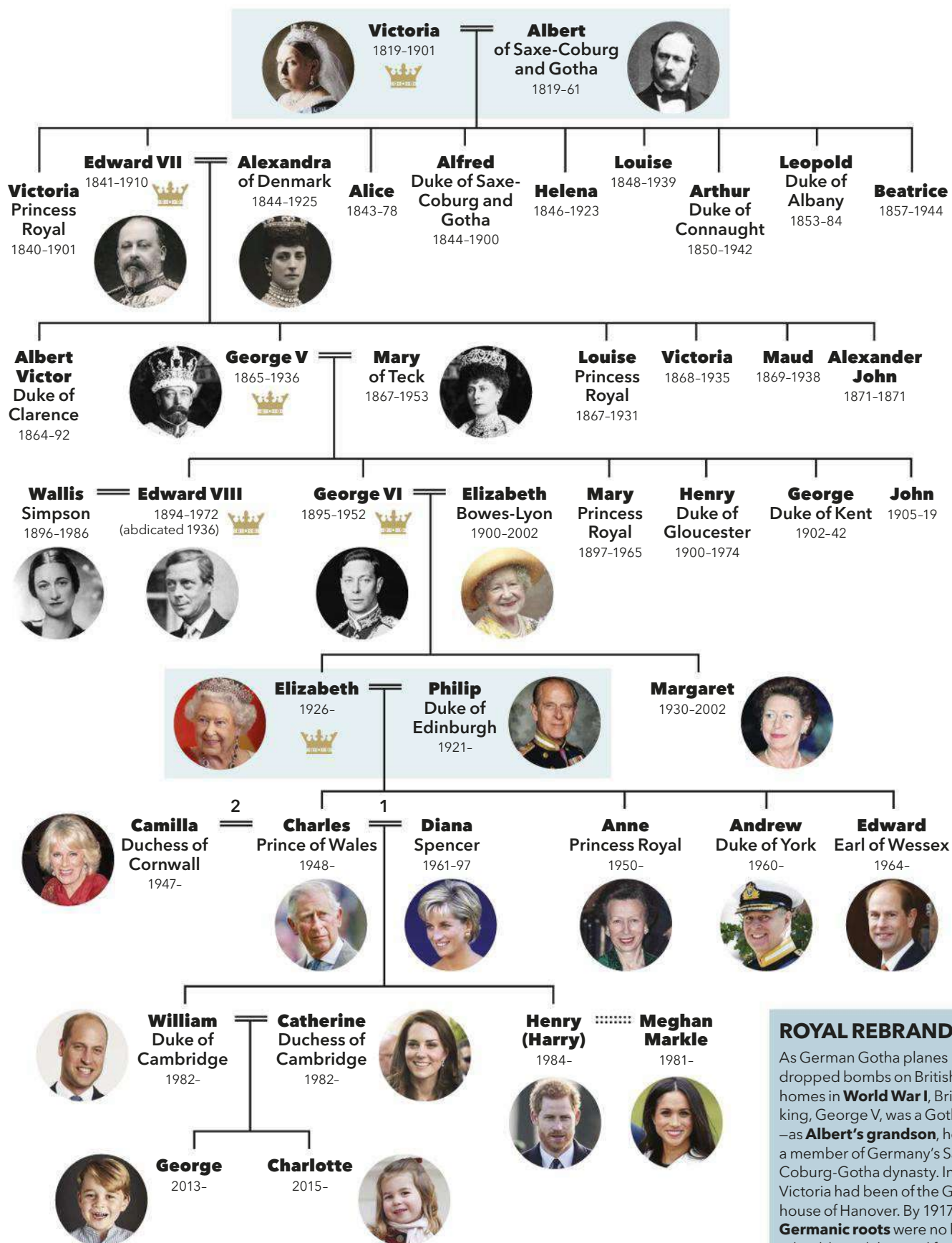


GETTY IMAGES

1952: A NEW ROYAL FAMILY

Just a few months after becoming queen, Elizabeth spends valuable time with her husband and children at her beloved Balmoral castle in Scotland. Read more about the Queen's struggle to balance family life with royal duty on page 62

British Royal Family



ROYAL REBRAND

As German Gotha planes dropped bombs on British homes in **World War I**, Britain's king, George V, was a Gotha too —as **Albert's grandson**, he was a member of Germany's Saxe-Coburg-Gotha dynasty. Indeed Victoria had been of the German house of Hanover. By 1917, these **Germanic roots** were no longer tolerable and the royal family was "rebranded" as the more English-sounding Windsor.

Contents



Victoria



10 Timeline

Milestones in Victoria's life

14 Early Years

Young Victoria's Struggle to the Throne

Abused, isolated, threatened: Victoria's hard route to royal power



14

28 The Coronation

The Big Spectacle

The momentous day Victoria became queen

32 Love & Marriage

Victoria's Beloved Albert

How a German prince reinvented the British monarchy



32

54 Family Life

Victoria's Dysfunctional Dynasty

How Victoria's "ideal" family was anything but

68 Relationships

Four Friendships that Shaped Victoria

The men who won over the frosty monarch



54

76 Across the Globe

The Warrior Queen

Victoria's connection to the bloody wars that expanded her empire

5 Royal Family Tree

8 Introduction: Women of Power

The parallels between Britain's two "Diamond Queens"

48 Photo Album: Glorious Palaces

Spectacular royal residences that have been close to both queens' hearts

94 Looking Forward: The Next Windsors

How a new generation of royals will keep the monarchy relevant in the 21st century



48



Elizabeth



Timeline 12

The Queen's key moments

20



Early Years 20

Elizabeth: Life Before the Throne

The early years of a princess who never expected to be queen



40

The Coronation 30

A Groundbreaking Royal Broadcast

How the world watched as Elizabeth took the throne

Love & Marriage 40

Prince Philip: A Life of Duty

The challenging role of Elizabeth's consort and husband

Family Life 62

Duty vs Family

The personal cost of Queen Elizabeth's dedication to her royal role



82

Relationships 72

Elizabeth and Churchill

How the Queen forged an unlikely bond with her first prime minister

Across the Globe 82

Elizabeth Around the World

The globe-trotting reign of the well-traveled monarch

88



Royal Fashion 88

Dressing to Impress

Regal style from Elizabeth, Margaret and Diana to the present day

48



94





Elizabeth & Victoria Women of Power

Although very different personalities, Britain's two longest-reigning monarchs both faced the challenges of being a woman in a man's world—and each triumphantly carved their own path

BY SARAH GRISTWOOD

Elizabeth II and Victoria—forever linked as Britain's two “Diamond Queens,” both having reached an unparalleled 60 years on the throne—in one sense were spared the questions of gender that had for so long made female rule in Britain seem like an impossibility.

No longer were sovereigns expected to lead their armies into battle—or even to dominate their realm in the sense that earlier monarchs such as the Tudors had done. Indeed, both young queens arguably made positive use of their gender. In Victoria's case, her perceived innocence and domesticity were a tonic after the “wicked uncles” who had preceded her in the Georgian era; and in

Elizabeth's there was the much-needed vibrancy and beauty of a new young queen. However, some of the issues that beset queens regnant in earlier centuries have never gone away.

Gender barrier

There is, for a start, the question of entitlement. Until new legislation in 2013 amended the centuries-old laws of succession, a female heir could at any time be superseded by her new-born brother. That was why, in the 1940s, it was reluctantly decided that the then Princess Elizabeth could not become Princess of Wales—there was the possibility, albeit remote, that her father might produce a son, who would displace Elizabeth in the line of succession and take the title Prince of

Wales. Victoria, meanwhile, took the throne only after her father and several uncles had universally failed to produce a legitimate heir.

The choice of consort for a female monarch, moreover, has also always been a vexed one. The control a husband might exercise over his wife was a very serious concern in earlier centuries, and continued to play a role in the personal lives of even these more modern queens. Victoria had to go against all the norms of her day by proposing to her prospective husband Albert. Prince Albert later wrote that the “most peculiar and delicate” position of a queen's consort required “that the husband should entirely sink his own individual existence in that of his wife.”

More than 100 years later, Prince

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“These two iconic figures set their stamp on their age – and triumphed over what was once seen as the grave disadvantage of their femininity”

PARALLEL LIVES

Despite the barriers they faced as women, Elizabeth II and Victoria each reigned for unprecedented periods



Philip similarly struggled for a role in the early days of his wife's reign, when Elizabeth's preoccupation with her duties sometimes took a toll on her young family, and certainly exhibited a kind of role reversal still considered disconcerting in the 1950s.

Albert boasted that he did in the end become not only “the natural head of the family” but Victoria's “sole confidential advisor in politics.” His insistence that the crown should be above political party divides, and Victoria no longer indulge her personal prejudices over personalities and policies, helped set the path for today's monarchy. A century later, Elizabeth—far more restrained in both temperament and conviction than her predecessor—was less reliant on a husband's support. But Philip, too, has played his part in modernizing and popularizing the monarchy.

Enduring the storms

As their reigns went on, both queens suffered a decline in the enthusiasm that had initially greeted their accession to the throne. Prince Albert's death in 1861

triggered in Victoria a spell of mourning so sustained and self-indulgent that it was described by some as evidence of insanity. As her grief-stricken retreat stretched out into not just years but decades, the public's initial sympathy gave way to hostility. Queen Elizabeth by contrast has always been distinguished by her sense of duty. Nonetheless, the latter part of her reign too witnessed a crisis to be overcome.

By the end of the 1980s, similar concerns to the ones that Victoria once faced were raised—about the nation becoming tired of an ageing monarch and a royal family unwilling to engage with the public. The marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer had been expected to signal a new era of royal popularity, but we all know how that story ended. And yet the crown won through—the 21st century has seen a resurgence not just of the queen herself, but of the very institution of monarchy.

Moving monarchy forward

Queen Victoria, too, triumphed in the end, through sheer longevity. On

September 23, 1896, she was able to note in her diary that: “Today is the day on which I have reigned longer, by a day, than any English sovereign.” Her diamond jubilee in the following June was widely recognized as a significant moment in royal history. But Elizabeth has since broken Victoria's record for longevity—and made a comeback at least as successfully.

Recent years have similarly seen a series of popularity-boosting royal events, from the wedding of Prince William to Kate Middleton, to the Queen's 90th birthday. With the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle ahead, more are yet to come. But much credit has surely to be given to Queen Elizabeth herself—a naturally conservative woman who has nonetheless allowed the royal family to change with changing times. Perhaps there is no better way to appreciate Britain's present queen than to compare her with Victoria—two iconic figures who have set their stamp on their age, and triumphed over what would once have been seen as the grave disadvantage of their femininity. ●



Queen Victoria

Key moments in the life of an extraordinary monarch

BY ELLIE CAWTHORNE

1819 Victoria is born

Following her birth at **Kensington Palace**, Victoria's father describes his baby daughter as "plump as a partridge... more of a pocket Hercules than a pocket Venus."

At the time, Victoria is **only fifth in line to the throne**. The christening is a low-key ceremony, as her uncle George, the Prince Regent, only allows a handful of people to attend. As no one expects her to become queen, she is given a highly unusual name for a royal: Alexandrina Victoria.

See page 14



1838 Her spectacular coronation

Victoria is crowned in a five-hour ceremony at **Westminster Abbey** on June 28. An estimated 40,000 visitors travel to London to celebrate the coronation, which is followed by a royal banquet and fireworks.

See page 28



1840 Marriage to Albert, the love of her life

Victoria marries her German first cousin **Prince Albert** in St. James's Palace chapel, after having proposed to him a year earlier (royal tradition dictates that no one can propose to a reigning monarch). At the wedding ceremony, 12 bridesmaids carry Victoria's 18-foot train and she kicks off a modern-day tradition by **wearing white**. Outside, the nation erupts into huge celebration. The queen records how she "never saw such crowds of people... they cheered most enthusiastically."

See page 32



1837 Victoria becomes queen

On June 20, Victoria is woken at 6 a.m. to be informed that she is now queen of England, following the death of her uncle, King William IV. The **18-year-old** begins her new life as monarch by moving from her childhood home at Kensington to Buckingham Palace (pictured), in part to **escape from the controlling influence of her mother**, and her mother's manipulative advisor, Sir John Conroy.



1839 Meddling in politics

The inexperienced queen gets into hot water for meddling in political matters, in an event known as the "Bedchamber Crisis." Facing criticism for her over-reliance on the Whig politician **Lord Melbourne** (pictured below), Victoria is accused of being unconstitutional when she appoints the majority of her ladies-in-waiting according to Melbourne's advice. The tense situation is defused by Prince Albert, who arranges for some of Victoria's ladies to resign voluntarily.

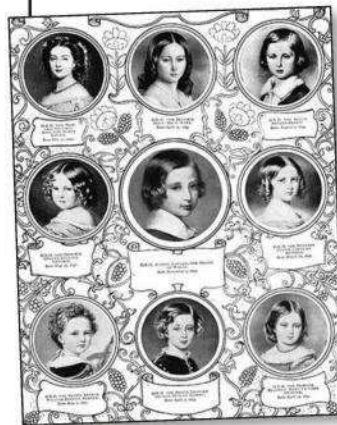
See page 68



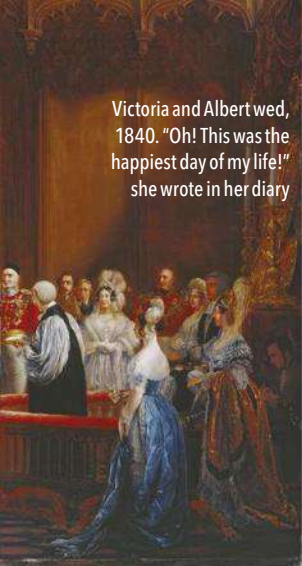
1840 The royal couple start a family

Just over nine months after their wedding, Victoria and Albert's first child, **Princess Victoria—or Vicky—is born** at Buckingham Palace. The couple's wishes for a male heir are granted less than a year later, when the queen gives birth to Edward, Prince of Wales, known to the family as "Bertie." Despite Victoria's hatred of childbirth and pregnancy, she and Albert go on to have a total of nine children, **four boys and five girls** (pictured below).

See page 54



Victoria and Albert wed, 1840. "Oh! This was the happiest day of my life!" she wrote in her diary



A souvenir picture produced for the golden jubilee contrasts a young Victoria with the monarch 50 years on

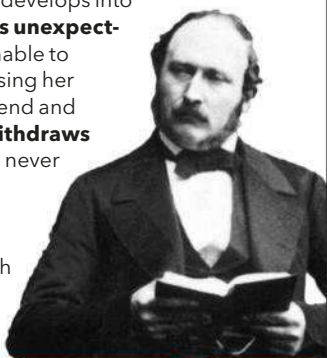


1887 50 years on the throne

Decades after her damaging retreat from public life following Albert's death, **Victoria is coaxed back into the limelight.** A show-stopping crowd-pleaser, her golden jubilee is intended to restore the popularity of the "widow of Windsor." Processions and military displays are packed with patriotic pomp, and Victoria's face is emblazoned on all manner of commemorative souvenirs.

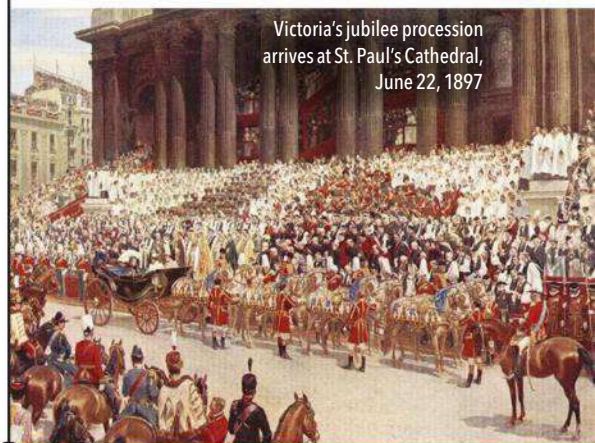
1861 Beloved Albert dies

Victoria suffers a shattering loss. After visiting their son Bertie in an attempt to persuade him against a scandalous affair, Albert (pictured) catches a chill, which develops into typhoid fever. He **dies unexpectedly, age just 42.** Unable to control her grief at losing her beloved husband, friend and advisor, the queen **withdraws from public life.** She never marries again and continues to wear mourning dress right up until her own death almost 40 years later.



1897 Glorious diamond jubilee

Street parties, parades, fireworks and cricket games take place across the country to mark Victoria's diamond jubilee, marking **60 years on the throne.** Some 300,000 of Britain's poor are treated to a special jubilee dinner, while in India 19,000 prisoners are pardoned. During a royal procession to St. Paul's Cathedral, Victoria is reportedly so overwhelmed by the cheering crowds that she bursts into tears.



Victoria's jubilee procession arrives at St. Paul's Cathedral, June 22, 1897

1877 The queen becomes an empress

After much pressure from Victoria, prime minister Benjamin Disraeli pronounces the queen **empress of India.** Over the course of her long reign, Victoria witnesses a mammoth expansion of the British empire. The monarchy is seen as a focal point for imperial pride, and the queen's image is spread across the globe. By the time she dies, **the British empire is the largest the world has ever known,** covering a quarter of the world's entire population.

See page 76

1901 Victoria dies

After a record-breaking **63 years on the throne,** the 81-year-old queen dies at Osborne House on the Isle of Wight. Silent crowds line the streets of London for the grand funeral procession, after which Victoria is **buried beside Albert** in the royal mausoleum in Windsor. In accordance with her requests, Albert's dressing gown and a plaster cast of his hand are lowered into the coffin with her. ●



Victoria died aged 81, after 63 years and seven months on the British throne

GETTY IMAGES / ALAMY



Queen Elizabeth II

Highs and lows in the life of the world's longest-reigning queen

BY VICTORIA ARBITER

Elizabeth with her children,
Princess Anne, age 2 and
Prince Charles, age 3



1926 A princess is born

HRH Princess Elizabeth is delivered by Cesarean section in the early hours of April 21 at Bruton Street, Mayfair, home of her maternal grandparents. It is **an inauspicious start**: she is the only monarch ever to be born at a residential address with a street number.

See page 20

1939-45 Elizabeth joins the war effort

Elizabeth and her sister Margaret spend most of World War II at Windsor Castle. Keen to contribute to **the war effort**, Elizabeth joins the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) in 1945, volunteering as a **driver and mechanic**.



1948 Prince Charles is born

On November 14, Elizabeth and Philip's **first child**, Charles, is born at Buckingham Palace. Princess Anne follows two years later, with Prince Andrew (1960) and Prince Edward (1964) completing the family.

See page 62



1936 King Edward abdicates

Following the abdication of her uncle, Edward VIII, after a reign of only 325 days, **Elizabeth's father reluctantly assumes the burden of sovereignty**, as King George VI.

Elizabeth and Philip's wedding provided a morale boost for postwar Britain

1947 Marriage to Philip Mountbatten

Elizabeth marries Lt. Philip Mountbatten at Westminster Abbey in an event **broadcast to 200 million radio listeners**. With postwar austerity measures still in place, Elizabeth collects ration coupons to purchase the material necessary to make her wedding dress.

See page 40



1952 Elizabeth becomes a queen

After being diagnosed with lung cancer, Elizabeth's father George VI dies in his sleep on February 6, 1952, age 56. The new queen is **4,000 miles away** in Kenya, the first stop on a royal tour. She arrives home to a **nation in mourning**. On June 2, 1953, Elizabeth is crowned at Westminster Abbey. She agrees to **televisе the event** and around 20 million Britons tune in to watch. She and Philip then embark on an ambitious **six-month tour** of 13 countries.

See page 30

Around 20 million viewers watched the 27-year-old Elizabeth's coronation





1981 Charles marries Lady Diana

Watched by an estimated global television **audience of 750 million**, Prince Charles marries Lady Diana Spencer at St. Paul's Cathedral on July 29. On the palace balcony, the couple greet the assembled masses, who chant "Kiss her." The newlyweds oblige, inadvertently **setting a new tradition**. Their first child, William, is born within a year.

1997 The "people's princess" dies

The untimely death of Diana on August 31 in a Paris car crash, age 36, rocks the nation and the world. **The Queen is heavily criticized** for staying at Balmoral with her grieving grandsons instead of returning to London. Public hostility escalates over the lack of a Union flag flying at half-mast over Buckingham Palace. On the day of Diana's funeral, the **flag is flown at half-mast**.

2011 Prince William marries

Prince William, second in line to the throne, marries **Catherine Middleton** at Westminster Abbey on April 29.



1992 A bad year

After the **divorce** of one child (Princess Anne from Mark Phillips) and the **separation** of two others (Charles and Diana, and Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson), a **fire at Windsor Castle** and the publication of Andrew Morton's **explosive tell-all**, *Diana: Her True Story*, the Queen declares 1992 her "annus horribilis." The same year, it is announced that she will begin to pay income tax.

2002 Elizabeth's golden jubilee

Sorrow overshadows the early months of the Queen's golden jubilee year with the **deaths of her mother and sister Margaret** just seven weeks apart. Ten years later, in 2012, Elizabeth reaches another milestone against a happier backdrop, as she joins Queen Victoria in becoming one of only two British sovereigns to celebrate a **diamond jubilee**, marking 60 years on the throne.



A portrait created to commemorate the Queen's golden jubilee in 2002



2016 The Queen turns 90

The nation celebrates as the Queen reaches her 90th birthday on April 21, 2016. She has already **broken Queen Victoria's record** as the longest-reigning monarch in British history. Her reign has spanned 13 British prime ministers, 13 US presidents and seven popes. ●





1838: HARD ROAD

Spied on, threatened, isolated and bullied, Victoria endured an unhappy path to the throne

The Young Victoria's Struggle for the Throne

When Victoria was born, becoming queen was a distant prospect. So how, against all the odds, did the spirited princess end up wearing the crown?

BY KATE WILLIAMS





“A woman on the throne of England—how ridiculous!”

These words were uttered by Prince George of Cambridge, after he'd been pushed down the line of succession by his plump little cousin, Princess Victoria. Many at the time agreed with this assessment. Even worse, as Queen Victoria herself later put it, “I was the first person ever to bear the name Victoria.” Astonishingly to us today, for whom the word “Victorian” seems so categorically English, it was then regarded as an absurd, invented name. Still worse, it had a French origin, and France had until recently been Britain's great enemy.

The little princess was further hampered by other matters: an unprepossessing appearance, shyness, a willful temper and, most of all, a greedy mother who wished to use her daughter as a route to power. But Victoria was also spirited, vibrant and determined, and, from a young age, determined to be queen.

“A pretty little princess, as plump as a partridge,” declared her father the Duke of Kent, on the day his daughter was born, May 24, 1819. Yet while Victoria's arrival may have thrilled her father, it caused little celebration in the rest of the country. Kent was only fourth in line to the throne, after his brothers: the Prince Regent (who at that time was acting as monarch in place of his father King



1819: AGAINST THE ODDS

The only daughter of King George III's fourth son, Victoria was a rank outsider for the throne—until her uncles failed to produce an heir

George III, due to his mental instability), the Duke of York and the Duke of Clarence. To the rest of the royal family, Victoria was merely the daughter of a minor brother, nothing more than a pawn to be eventually traded in marriage.

Race to make an heir

Victoria was born in the midst of a succession crisis. By the time King George III's five surviving daughters and seven sons were nudging into middle age, in 1817, they had managed one legitimate heir between them: Princess Charlotte (their illegitimate children, on the other hand,

would finally total 56). The English looked to Princess Charlotte as the hope for their country, in contrast to her debauched, spendthrift uncles and spinster aunts. When she became pregnant, the people were delighted. But after 50 hours of labor, she produced a stillborn boy. Within hours, Charlotte had fallen into a fatal fever and died.

The country was grief-stricken, and the politicians began panicking over the lack of an heir.

In the hope that parliament would pay off their huge debts, the dukes embarked on a race to marry and produce children. The Duke of Kent sent away his mistress of 20 years and set about courting Marie Louise Victoire, Dowager Princess of Leiningen. Victoire was initially reluctant to relinquish her “agreeable independent position,” as she put it, to marry Kent, an indebted duke 20 years her senior, but her family pressed her into agreeing. Despite her doubts and his debts, the two were happy, and Victoire soon fell pregnant with Victoria. “My brothers are not so strong as I am,” the elated Duke postured. “I have led a regular life, I shall outlive them all; the crown will come to me and my children.”

The Prince Regent was infuriated by his younger brother's success in producing a child and took his revenge by wrecking the christening. He allowed only a handful of guests to attend and refused to allow the child to bear the names associated with earlier queens such as

BRIDGEMAN/GETTY IMAGES

Victoria's route to the throne

How the princess went from fifth in line to the front of the queue

**May 24
1819**

A princess is born to the Duke and Duchess of Kent at Kensington Palace. She is, the duke admits, “more of a pocket Hercules than a pocket Venus.”



Princess Victoria with her widowed mother the Duchess of Kent

**January 23
1820**

Victoria's father, the Duke of Kent, dies at Sidmouth, after a chill develops into pneumonia.

**January 29
1820**

King George III dies and the **prince regent** (pictured) **becomes King George IV**. Victoria is now third in line to the throne. She and her mother move into Kensington Palace.



**June 26
1830**

Death of George IV. His brother, the 64-year-old Duke of Clarence, becomes King William IV. Eleven-year-old Victoria is now heir to the throne.

**August 1
1832**

Victoria's tour around Britain is a three-month trip that takes in Wales, Cheshire, the Midlands and Oxford.



A portrait of Victoria from around the time she was made to tour the country

Charlotte or Augusta, or indeed Georgiana, the feminized version of his own name. Instead, on the day, the archbishop of Canterbury stood with the child over the font, waiting for the Prince Regent to inform him of her name. Finally, he spat “Give her the mother’s name.” The baby’s first name was Alexandrina, but she quickly became known by her middle name—Victoria.

Impoverished and desperate

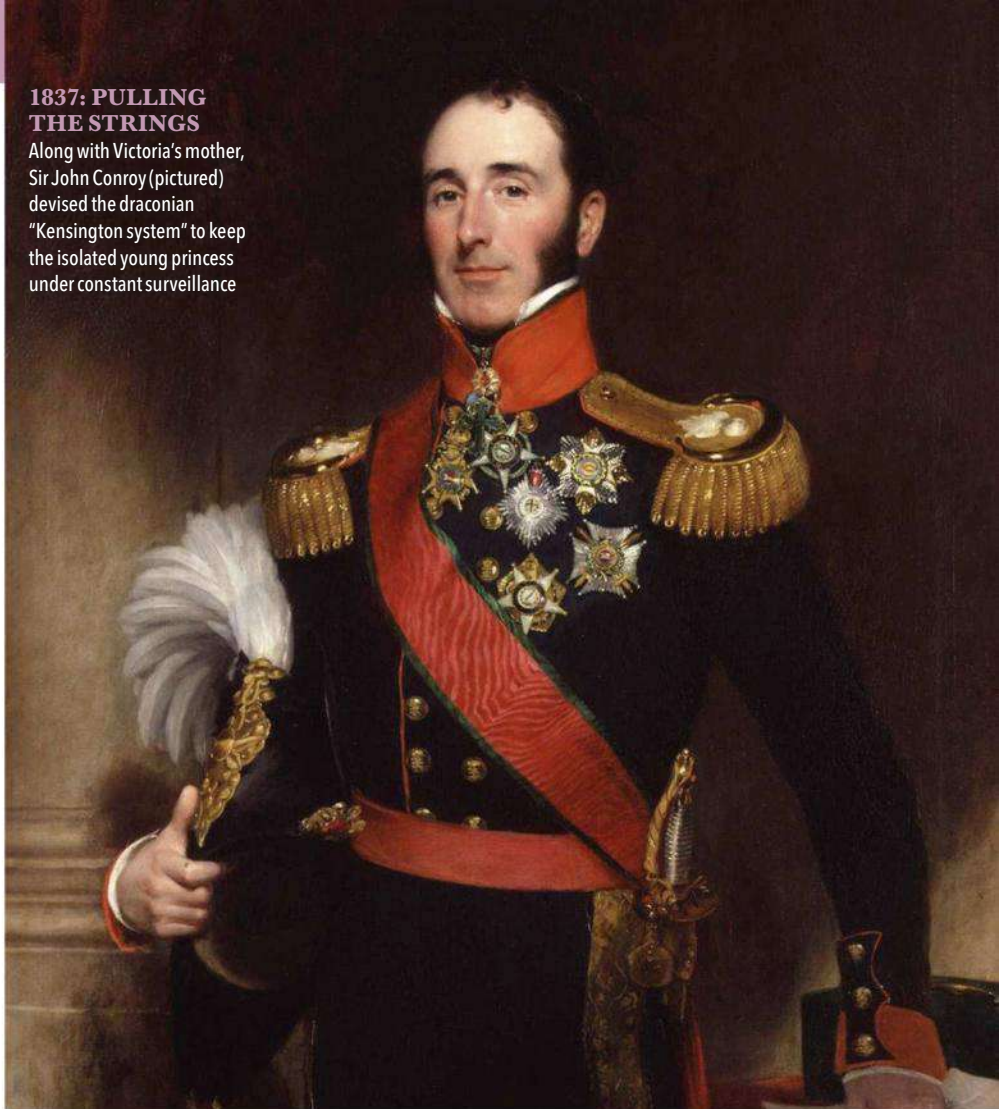
By December, Victoria’s father had accepted his debts were insurmountable and moved his family to a cheaper house in Sidmouth, on the Devon coast. It was a bitter winter, and in early January, after returning from one of his outdoor walks soaked to the bone, the Duke took to his bed with a chill. Within days, he was severely ill. He died on January 23, holding his wife’s hand. Victoria was just eight months old.

Victoria’s mother, 33 years old at the time, was impoverished and desperate. Her brother Leopold persuaded the begrudging Prince Regent to allow her rooms in Kensington Palace. Accompanying her was John Conroy, a handsome army officer who had been equerry to the duke. In the chaos after the duke’s death, he had inveigled himself into the duchess’s absolute confidence and became the de facto ruler of her household. On January 29, 1820, the day that the duchess arrived at Kensington Palace, King George III finally died and the prince regent finally became King George IV. After her uncles, the dukes of York and Clarence, baby Victoria was now third in line to the throne.

ALAMY/BRIDGEMAN/GETTY IMAGES

1837: PULLING THE STRINGS

Along with Victoria’s mother, Sir John Conroy (pictured) devised the draconian “Kensington system” to keep the isolated young princess under constant surveillance



Kensington Palace was then cold, gloomy and shabby—and the life the young Victoria led there was little better. Her mother and John Conroy were absolutely united in a quest to make Victoria their slave. Both were convinced that Victoria would become queen and their dearest hope was that she would ascend to the throne as a minor under the age of 18 so that her mother could be

regent—effectively reigning in Victoria’s name, gathering power and riches for herself and Conroy. If, however, she succeeded after the age of 18, they wished to ensure that she would give up all power to them. And so they instigated the “Kensington system.”

The Kensington system was a cruel regime of bullying and, most of all, surveillance. Victoria was not allowed to

October and November 1835

Victoria falls ill with typhoid at Ramsgate. She resists the duchess’s attempt **to force her to appoint John Conroy** as her secretary and adviser.



Time was running out for the duchess to secure herself the role of regent

May 24 1837

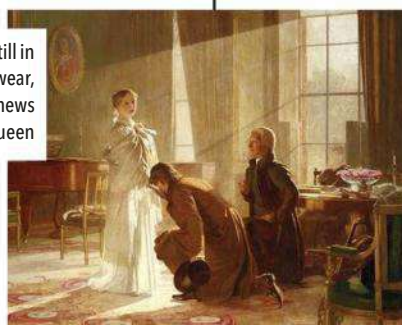
Victoria turns 18. The whole country celebrates—except the duchess and John Conroy.

June 1837

Conroy again attempts to force Victoria to appoint him as her secretary. **Again she refuses.**

June 20 1837

Death of William IV. **Victoria ascends the throne.** Her first act is to ask for an hour alone.



Victoria, still in her nightwear, receives the news that she is queen

June 28 1838

Victoria is crowned queen. “I shall ever remember this day as the proudest of my life,” she declares.





be alone for a second. She slept in her mother's room every night and a nurse or governess stood guard over her until her mother retired to bed. Her every cough, every word and even choice of dress was faithfully reported to John Conroy. She was kept away from her father's family and isolated from all children, apart from Conroy's.

The duchess was also terrified of reports that the Duke of Cumberland, who was the next brother in line to the throne behind Victoria, wished to kill the little girl. Certainly, Cumberland spread rumors that Victoria was too sickly to rule and tried to find ways of pushing her out of the succession—and it is not impossible that he might have wanted her dead. Whatever his intentions, Victoria's food was tasted before every meal, and she was not allowed to walk down stairs without holding somebody's hand.

Victoria felt her confined situation keenly. "I led a very unhappy childhood," she lamented. She declared that her only "happy time" had been driving out with her half-sister Feodora and her governess, for "then I could speak or look as I liked."

As Victoria grew up, the duchess redoubled her attempts to control her, and to show herself off as the power behind the throne. For time proved her right: to the duchess's delight, Kent's elder brothers had no children that survived for longer than a few months.

Just after Victoria turned 11, King George IV died and the 64-year-old Duke of Clarence ascended the throne as King William IV. Victoria was now heir, and her mother decided to parade her to the country as the future queen—with herself and Conroy by the princess's side. On August 1, 1832, 13-year-old Victoria set off on the first of her journeys with her mother and the Conroys: a three-month tour taking in Wales, the Midlands and Cheshire.

Victoria hated the tour. She detested being surrounded by Conroys, the early starts and the endless dinners and receptions with dull adults. On September 25, 1832, she confessed to her "Good Behavior Book" that she had been "Very very very very very horribly naughty!!!!" underlining each word four times. Yet despite her complaints, the tours across Britain continued, including sporadic

Victoria was not allowed to be alone for a second, or to walk down stairs without holding somebody's hand



1834: ON DISPLAY

Despite Victoria's protestations, the duchess and Conroy paraded her around Britain—as much to raise their own profiles as the princess's



1837: HANGING ON

William IV despised Conroy and the duchess's plans for a regency and endeavored—successfully—to stay alive long enough for Victoria to reach adulthood

visits to seaside resorts and aristocratic houses throughout the year.

Meanwhile, the politicians voiced their opinion that Victoria was just too ridiculous a name for a ruler. Indeed, King William IV tried to force Victoria's mother to change it to Elizabeth or Charlotte. Initially, she agreed. Finally, however, she refused, wanting her daughter to bear her name. It is odd to think now that if she had relented, the "Victorian" age would never have existed.

For all the duchess and Conroy's grand schemes for exerting absolute control over Victoria on her succession, time wasn't on their side. Soon the princess was 16 and, with King William showing every sign of holding onto health for another two years, the pair began to panic—and decided to embark on a new strategy. They told all those with influence that Victoria was so immature that she would require the duchess to rule for her until at least the age of 21. At the same time, they plotted to force Victoria to give them positions of power when she ascended the throne.

In the autumn of 1835, when Victoria fell ill with typhoid at Ramsgate, they saw an opportunity to act. While the princess was weeping with fever in bed, her mother loomed over her and repeatedly attempted to force her to sign a document agreeing to appoint Conroy as her private secretary—in effect, the controller of her affairs and money. But Victoria, as she later wrote, "resisted in spite of my illness, and their harshness." She was determined to defy her mother's drive for power.

The king, too, was resolute. Although his health was declining, he was determined not to give up on life until Victoria turned 18. He hated Victoria's mother and the last thing he wanted was for her to be regent. Every day, he struggled on—willing himself not to die.

Coming of age

"Today is my 18th birthday! How old!" mused the princess on May 24, 1837. It was a giant gala day for the country. Kensington was festooned with banners and there was an official reception at the palace and a large ball in the evening. For her mother, however, it was a day of despair. Victoria was 18—and the king was still alive.

The duchess and Conroy redoubled their efforts to force Victoria to agree to



1837: VICTORIOUS

After becoming queen, the 18-year-old Victoria housed Conroy and her mother in a remote corner of Buckingham Palace and limited all personal contact

appoint Conroy as her private secretary or treasurer, or to a regency until she was 21. They told her that the country only esteemed her because of her mother; they begged and threatened. Conroy declared she should be locked up and denied food. Victoria stayed strong and, luckily for her, she did not have long to wait.

In the early hours of June 20, 1837, King William IV finally died. At six o'clock in the morning, in Kensington Palace, Victoria stood in her nightwear as the archbishop of Canterbury and the lord chancellor knelt to her and told her that she was now queen. Her first act was to ask for an hour alone. Then she moved her bed from her mother's room.

Our vision of Victoria might be of an elderly matron, dressed in dour black, unsmiling and pronouncing "we are not amused." But she was a vibrant young

She was now queen. Her first act was to ask for an hour alone. Then she moved her bed from her mother's room

woman who survived her battle to the throne despite the expectations of many that she would never become queen, and the intent ambition of her mother. She was now queen of one of the greatest countries in Europe, and she had succeeded against great odds. ●



Actress Jenna Coleman stars as the young queen in popular historical drama *Victoria*

BACKSTAGE

THE REAL HISTORY BEHIND *VICTORIA*

One of the major challenges in making a popular period drama is balancing a gripping plotline with the real-life historical fact. In *Victoria*, the series which explores the young queen's turbulent life and reign, this is something that creator and writer Daisy Goodwin grapples with in every episode.

"I get to a point where I'm steeped in the history and I then try to distill the most exciting, dramatic and truthful version of the story that I can," Goodwin explains. Most of what we see on screen, from the queen struggling with motherhood to a teenage boy breaking into the palace, is inspired by true events that really happened during Queen Victoria's reign.

"Ultimately, we're making a drama not a documentary, and I do shape events around a dramatic structure in order to make them exciting and engaging for a 21st-century television audience," says Goodwin. "However, all of the big building blocks of the series are true, and Victoria and Albert's own stories are pretty close to reality."

"I'm not saying that you can watch *Victoria* and suddenly you'll know everything there is to know about 19th-century Britain," she explains. "But I do think it would definitely give you a good idea of what was going on at the time."

WORDS Ellie Cawthorne

Early Years



The Young Elizabeth *Life before she was Queen*

From her unconventional education and involvement in the war effort, to the crisis that brought her to the throne, we trace the early life of Elizabeth—a princess who never expected to be queen

BY KATE WILLIAMS



GETTY IMAGES



**1946: BEFORE
THE CROWN**

The 20-year-old Princess Elizabeth working at her desk in Buckingham Palace, five years before her father's death made her queen

In 1926, there was political turbulence in Britain, triggered by the looming threat of a workers' strike that could bring the country to its knees. Against the backdrop of this crisis, the Duke and Duchess of York—King George V's second son Albert, and his wife the former Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon—were expecting their first child. "We have long wanted a child to make our happiness complete," wrote the duke.

The princess Elizabeth was destined for a good marriage and little more

Their baby girl was born by Cesarian section at 2:40 a.m. on April 21, at 17 Bruton Street in Mayfair, a home owned by the Bowes-Lyons. "I do hope that you and papa are as delighted as we are to have a granddaughter," wrote the duke to his father, George V, "or would you sooner have had another grandson?" The baby was officially third in line to the throne, but since she was the child of George V's second son—and female—she was destined to be pushed down the succession by any sons born to her uncle, the Prince of Wales, or her father. She was called Elizabeth Alexandra Mary after her mother, great-grandmother and grandmother. All three were queen consorts, not queens who ruled themselves. The princess Elizabeth was destined for a good marriage and little more.

Two weeks later, Elizabeth Alexandra Mary was christened by the archbishop of York at Buckingham Palace. The young princess was a favorite with her grandparents and one of the few people in the family not afraid of the king, George V, whom she called "Grandpa England."

In early 1927, Elizabeth's parents departed on a tour of Australia and New Zealand, leaving her with her nannies. When they returned, the family took a new house, 145 Piccadilly, near Hyde Park. It had 25 bedrooms, a lift and a ballroom but, by royal standards, Elizabeth was growing up in a cosy, normal house. Her playmates in the gardens

were the daughters of businessmen and doctors, not fellow princesses.

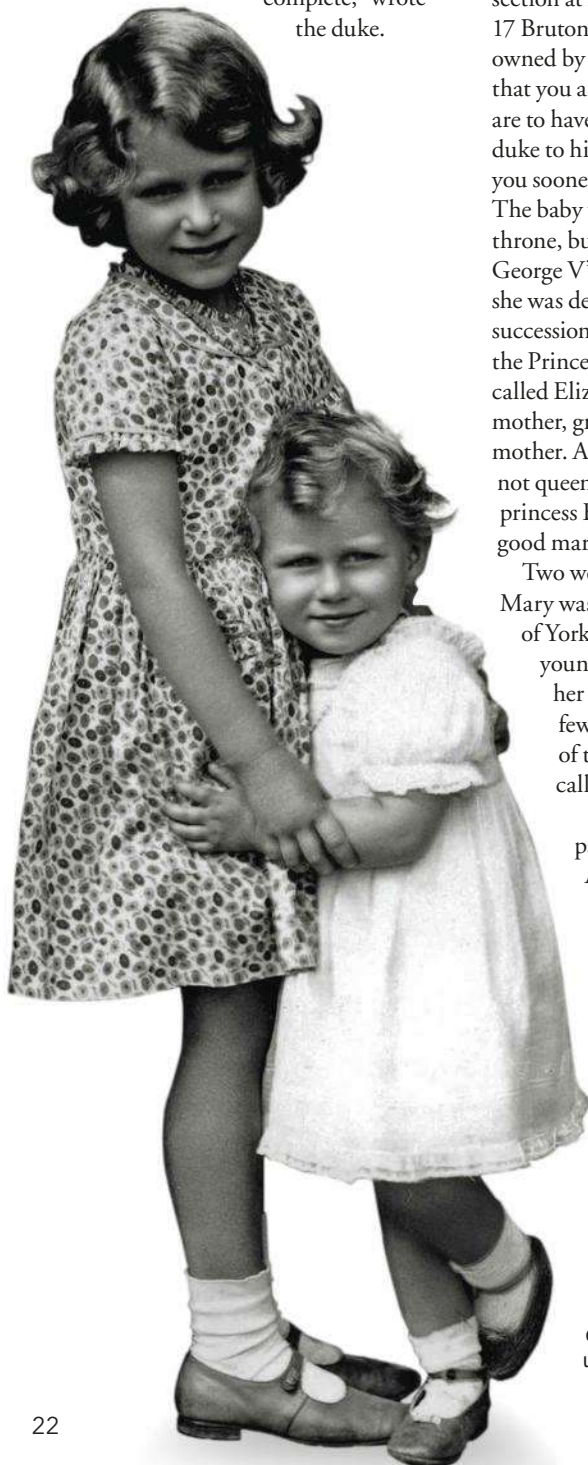
In 1930 Elizabeth's younger sister, Princess Margaret, was born. "I am glad to say that she has large blue eyes and a will of iron, which is all the equipment a lady needs!" the duchess wrote. As they grew up, it became evident that the two little girls had very different personalities. Elizabeth was conscientious, dutiful and orderly—she couldn't go to sleep without unsaddling and feeding all her nursery horses and lining them up neatly. Margaret on the other hand, was playful, determined and fond of pranks—she blamed any mistakes or spills on her imaginary friend, Cousin Halifax.

In 1933, when Elizabeth was seven, the girls received a new governess, Miss Marion Crawford. She had been recommended to the Duchess of York as a "country girl who was a good teacher, except when it came to mathematics." Fortunately, the duchess was not looking for a challenging academic schedule. Both she and her husband had hated school (the duke had been ridiculed as a dunce). What the royal couple wanted for their daughters was a "really happy childhood, with lots of pleasant memories." This meant minimal lessons. The king had only one request: "Teach Margaret and Lilibet [his nickname for Elizabeth] a decent hand." Miss Crawford's regimen was gentle. Elizabeth received lessons from 9:30 until 11 in the morning and the rest of the day was devoted to outdoor games, dancing and singing.

Unlike her parents, Elizabeth had an aptitude for learning. She enjoyed history and literature, but had little opportunity for sustained study. Queen Mary criticized the girls' education and recalled that she had busied herself with homework in the holidays—but to no avail. In her free time, Elizabeth was fondest of dogs and horses. She declared she wanted to marry a farmer so she could have lots of "cows, horses and dogs."

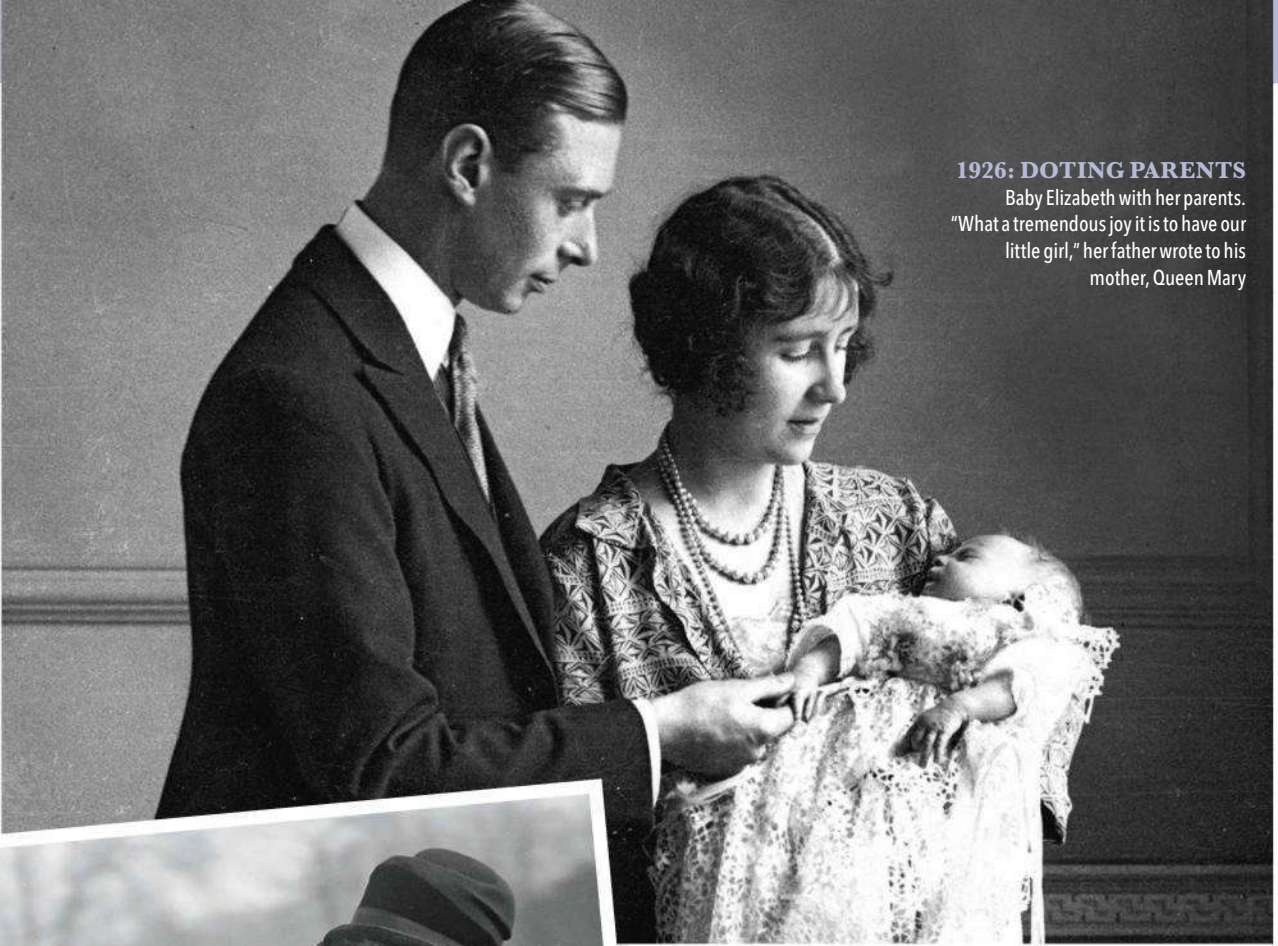
Abdication crisis

George V died in January 1936 and Elizabeth's uncle assumed the throne as Edward VIII. As king he was more dependent on his divorced American lover, Wallis Simpson, than ever. But although the foreign press discussed the scandalous relationship at length, the



1932: SISTERLY LOVE

"Lilibet," age six, with her sister Margaret, almost two. The girls enjoyed a relatively normal upbringing until life changed dramatically in 1936



1926: DOTING PARENTS

Baby Elizabeth with her parents. "What a tremendous joy it is to have our little girl," her father wrote to his mother, Queen Mary



1928: FIRST NANNY

Young Elizabeth on an open carriage outing with her first nanny, Clara Knight, who managed all activities outside of education



1940: GENTLE EDUCATION

Although the princess had an aptitude for learning, her lessons were minimal. Penmanship was one essential, however, on her father's insistence



1936: PRINCESS PLAYMATES

Even from a young age Elizabeth is said to have had a conscientious and disciplined nature, in contrast to her more rebellious sister Margaret



1930s: 'CRAWFIE'

Marion Crawford oversaw the home education of the young princesses

1930s: FIRST LOVE

The young princess expressed her wish to marry a farmer so she could have lots of "cows, horses and dogs"

1930s: HOME LIFE

Elizabeth in the gardens of 145 Piccadilly with one of the family's pet corgis



British newspapers stayed quiet. In late October, Wallis filed for divorce from her second husband and it was clear that the king meant to marry her. The government was as determined to stop him, for it was thought the people would not accept a divorced consort. The empire governments mostly refused the idea outright. "It was plain to everyone that there was a great shadow over the house," wrote Miss Crawford.

On December 10, 1936, 10-year-old Elizabeth was about to write up her notes from her swimming lesson when she heard chants of "God Save the King" outside. She asked a footman what had happened and he told her that her uncle had abdicated and her father was king. She ran up to tell her sister the news. "Does that mean you will have to be the next queen?" asked Margaret. "Yes, some day," replied Elizabeth. "Poor you," said Margaret. In the face of crisis and change, Elizabeth adopted a technique she would use throughout her life: she stuck to her routine, attempting to appear unruffled. She wrote up her swimming notes, and

The jolly life of 145 Piccadilly was at an end, and the family moved into Buckingham Palace

at the top of the page she wrote: "Abdication Day."

The jolly life of 145 Piccadilly was at an end. The family moved into Buckingham Palace and the girls' parents—who had always been so present in their daughters' lives—became consumed by meetings, receptions and politics. The former king, now the Duke of Windsor, of whom the children had been so fond, was sent away to Europe. Elizabeth, meanwhile, attended her father's coronation, writing that the abbey was covered in "a sort of haze of wonder as

papa was crowned, at least I thought so."

Elizabeth, age 11, was now heir to the throne. In response, her mother stepped up her education, and more history was introduced. In 1938, Elizabeth began receiving lessons from the vice provost of Eton, Henry Marten, on constitutional history, which proved important to her future perception of her role as monarch. The palace and the government became concerned that the princess wasn't too isolated. The 1st Buckingham Palace Girl Guide Pack was instituted, with 20 girls invited to join Elizabeth and Margaret at the palace on Wednesday afternoons. They learned trekking in the palace grounds and practiced signaling in the corridors.

The Windsors at war

On March 15, 1939, German tanks entered Prague, and Europe moved towards war. That summer, the family visited to the Royal Naval College in Dartmouth, where the king had studied. Here, the 13-year-old princess was introduced to Philip of Greece, who was



1937: UNEXPECTED KING

The royal family on the palace balcony following the coronation of Elizabeth's father. She was now heir to the throne



1936: ROYAL CRISIS

News of Edward VIII's abdication shocked the British public and brought the sheltered life of the young princess Elizabeth to an end

18 at the time. She was fascinated by him.

On September 3, 1939, prime minister Neville Chamberlain announced that Britain was now at war. The king broadcast later in the day, telling the people that this "grave hour" was "perhaps the most fateful in our history." The princesses were staying near Balmoral in Scotland, on their annual summer holiday with Miss Crawford—and were soon joined by hundreds of evacuees from the nearby city of Glasgow. After Christmas at Sandringham, they went to Royal Lodge in Windsor, the pale pink walls painted green and brown to fool enemy bombers. Elizabeth's mother refused to bow to pressure to send the children to Canada, out of the range of the enemy. In 1940, the princesses were sent to Windsor Castle, where they would remain for the rest of the war—along with the crown jewels, which were bundled up in paper in the underground vaults.

The princesses were key to Britain's propaganda strategy—the nation was told that they were in a secret location in the countryside, where they carried around



1945: ARMY VOLUNTEER As a truck mechanic in the Auxiliary Territorial Service. Pictures of the princess in military training served as powerful propaganda in the latter part of the war

their gas masks and grew their own carrots and potatoes in a vegetable patch. But the princesses were not exempt from the terrors of war—300 bombs were dropped on Windsor Great Park over the course of the conflict. Often they were woken at night and sent into the underground vaults of the castle. They slept in “siren suits,” zip-up all-in-one jumpsuits designed for warmth and practicality in bombing raids. The palace had repeatedly rejected requests for Elizabeth to speak on the radio, but in 1940, with German bombers razing British cities to the ground, the king and queen changed their minds. In a time when US support for the war effort was critical, they agreed to allow the princess to broadcast on the BBC to the children of North America. On October 13, she gave her speech, expressing how she and her sister sympathised with those who had been evacuated, since “we know from experience what it means to be away from those we love most of all.” The speech was a huge hit. “Princess yesterday huge success here,” reported a North American representative of the BBC.

In 1941, Britain was the first country in the world to introduce conscription for single women, and when Elizabeth turned 16, she begged her father to allow

Elizabeth’s wartime training was a propaganda coup. Photos of her wielding her wrench appeared in every Allied newspaper

her to join the war effort. She was interviewed for a position by the labor exchange, but not placed—much to the relief of the king, who wished to protect his daughters.

At the end of 1943, when Elizabeth was 17, Philip came to spend Christmas with the royal family. He was charmed by her admiration and what he described as the “simple pleasure” of family life, so unlike his own unhappy childhood. He returned to war enthusiastic about the idea of marrying the princess, and his cousin, George of Greece, made a suggestion to the king that the pair might wed. It was a misstep; the king was

shocked and told George that Elizabeth was too young and Philip “had better not think any more about it at present.” The king didn’t wish to lose his daughter and the courtiers thought Philip “rough, ill mannered, uneducated” (in the words of one). Worst of all was his background. As one courtier put it, “it was all bound up in one word: German.”

The princess turned 18 in 1944 and began to assume royal duties. Her father insisted she be made a counsellor of state (usually only open to those who had reached 21) and she stood in for him when he was briefly in Italy. She made her first public speech at a children’s hospital and launched HMS *Vanguard* in the autumn. But she wanted more—she desired to serve her country in the forces. In early 1945, the king eventually relented and allowed her to join the Auxiliary Territorial Service as a trainee ambulance driver.

At the base in Aldershot, Elizabeth was initially kept away from the other trainees and taken to eat in the officers’ mess, before the papers found out and the regime was quickly adjusted. The princess later said that it was the only time in her life that she had been able to test herself against people her own age. For the government, her training was a propaganda coup. Photos of her wielding her wrench or standing by vehicles were plastered on the front of every Allied newspaper.

By April 30, 1945, Allied forces occupied Hitler’s Reichstag. The German leader committed suicide in his bunker and his troops surrendered. On May 7, the BBC interrupted a piano recital to announce that the following day would be known as Victory in Europe Day. The war was over. On VE Day, the princesses appeared with their parents and the prime minister Winston Churchill on the balcony of Buckingham Palace to wave at the crowds. Elizabeth wore her uniform. That evening, Margaret suggested that they go out to see the crowds. The king and queen relented and the girls set off, accompanied by Marion Crawford and various officers, wandering as far as Park Lane before returning back through Green Park to shout “we want the king!” with the crowds. “All of us were swept along by tides of happiness and relief,” recalled Elizabeth.



1945: VE DAY The royal family greets crowds celebrating the end of World War II in Europe. The princesses later left the palace to join the partying in the streets, shouting with the crowds for their father



1947: TURNING 21
Elizabeth poses for a birthday portrait while on a royal tour of South Africa

Glamor for postwar Britain

Once the euphoria had subsided, the aftermath of war seemed grey, miserable and full of privations. "Food, fuel and clothes are the main topics of conversation with us all," wrote the king. He was exhausted by the effort of war and found it hard to adjust to daily life. At the same time, the people were fascinated by the princess and increasingly preferred to see her opening hospitals, presenting prizes and giving speeches. She was overwhelmingly popular: dignified, a veteran of the war and full of the glamor of youth. Cambridge University suggested that she might be the first woman ever to receive an honorary degree, but the palace refused the offer.

In 1946, Philip returned to Britain and was sent to teach naval officers in Wales.



1947: NEW ROMANCE
Princess Elizabeth pictured with husband Philip Mountbatten shortly after their wedding

He began to court Elizabeth in earnest, taking supper with her and Margaret in the nursery and taking the sisters out to restaurants or shows. Austerity Britain was delighted by the idea of a royal romance and the possibility of a wedding. Elizabeth's parents were still dubious, but it was too late—she was determined to marry Philip.

In February 1947, the princess left the country for the first time, on a royal tour to South Africa with Margaret and her parents. There, she celebrated her 21st birthday. She reviewed troops, attended a ball thrown in her honor and gave her address to the empire. In

it she pledged her future: "I declare before you that my whole life, whether it shall be long or short, shall be devoted to your service." She had spent a long time in the nursery but now she was 21, on the brink of marriage—and in less than five years, she would become queen. ●



Elizabeth (played by Claire Foy) prepares to face her first briefings from the government

BACKSTAGE THE REAL HISTORY BEHIND *THE CROWN*

Growing up, Elizabeth had no experiences of a communal classroom. Her education was mainly supervised by governesses, particularly Marion Crawford, known to the princesses as "Crawfie." Crawford's curriculum was not rigorous and focused on practical skills over academic knowledge.

But from 1938, with the young Elizabeth now first in line to the throne, her education was adjusted. She would now need to prepare for the pressures of monarchy and for "the Boxes," red leather-bound dispatch cases of government documents which would be sent to her each day of her reign. Her tutor, as depicted in *The Crown*, was Henry Marten, the eccentric vice provost of Eton—the exclusive boy's school down the hill in Windsor—who would feed sugar lumps to his pet raven as he educated the princess. The lessons were not the traditional schoolroom topics Marten delivered to his boys, but political and constitutional history.

The Crown speculates that these unusual lessons might have caused the Queen to wonder if she were at an educational disadvantage, and the series sees the fictitious Hogg, a scruffy but likeable professor, being employed by the Queen to plug any gaps in her general knowledge. However, if this insecurity ever affected the Queen in reality, it seemingly remained unaddressed; there is no evidence that she ever employed such a tutor to improve her education.

WORDS Elinor Evans



The Big Spectacle

Britain celebrated the coronation of its new young queen in an extravagant day of pomp and ceremony

BY ELLIE CAWTHORNE

On June 28, 1838, Victoria was woken at 4 a.m. by the sound of ceremonial guns. As the young queen tried, and failed, to get some more sleep before her coronation ceremony later that day, crowds began to throng the streets outside, bells pealed and bands struck up. Desperate to catch a glimpse of their new monarch, an estimated 400,000 visitors had flocked to London to witness the celebrations. After a succession of old kings, the public was captivated by their new 19-year-old queen.

"The crowds exceeded what I have ever seen," Victoria recorded in her

journal – "millions of my loyal subjects, assembled in every spot. Their good humor and excessive loyalty was beyond everything. I really cannot say how proud I felt to be the queen of such a nation."

The coronation itself was a five-hour spectacle in the stately surroundings of Westminster Abbey. At £79,000, the extravagant pageant cost more than double that of Victoria's predecessor, King William IV. Wearing sumptuous red and gold coronation robes, Victoria was assisted by eight train-bearers dressed in white satin with silver wreaths and pink roses in their hair. The new imperial state crown placed on her head glimmered with



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more than 3,000 diamonds, sapphires and other precious gemstones. Luckily, Victoria's fears "that the Archbishop would not put on the crown properly and well" proved to be unfounded.

Yet the under-rehearsed ceremony did not go entirely as planned. An elderly peer fell down on the abbey steps, prompting satirists to joke "Lord Rolle was rolling." In response, Victoria rose from her throne and advanced down the steps to meet him, noted by the diarist Charles Greville as "an act of graciousness and kindness which made a great sensation." In another incident noted in the queen's diary, the archbishop injured

Victoria's hand by jamming the coronation ring onto the wrong finger, causing her "great pain." Despite these mishaps, the queen remained calm, reassured by the presence of her friend and mentor, prime minister Lord Melbourne, who stayed close to her throughout.

After the ceremony, the tired but jubilant new queen enjoyed a royal banquet before watching fireworks from the palace balcony. "The enthusiasm, affection, and loyalty were really touching," she recorded in her diary that evening. "I shall ever remember this day as the proudest in my life." ●



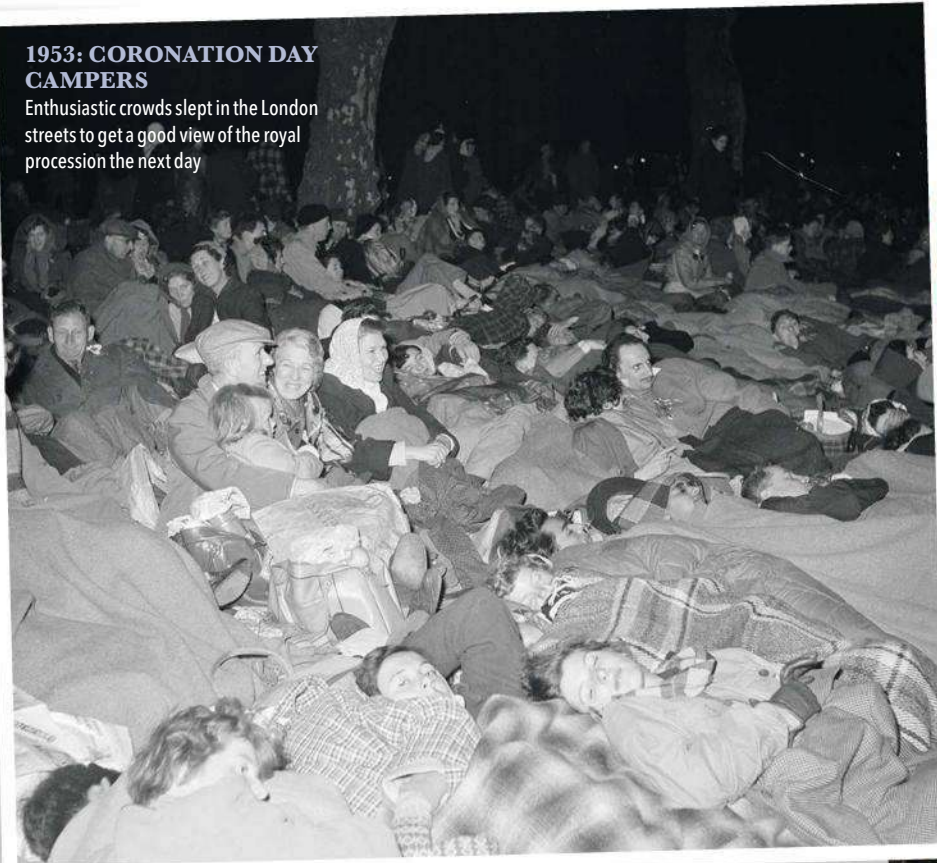
1838: JEWEL IN THE CROWN

TOP: Victoria receives the sacrament as part of her five-hour coronation service

ABOVE: The Imperial State Crown was adorned with more than 3,000 precious stones

1953: CORONATION DAY CAMPERS

Enthusiastic crowds slept in the London streets to get a good view of the royal procession the next day



1953: WELCOME GLITZ

In the gold state coach, Elizabeth passes the cheering crowds



A Groundbreaking Royal Broadcast

Millions tuned in to see Elizabeth crowned, in an extravaganza of glamor and grandeur that ushered in a new television era

BY VICTORIA ARBITER

Coronation Day, June 2, 1953, dawned cold, grey and miserable, but a palpable sense of excitement hung in the air as the nation prepared to officially usher in a second Elizabethan age. Following the 16-year reign of her father, George VI, and the significantly shorter 325-day reign of her uncle, Edward VIII, no one could have anticipated Elizabeth going on to become Britain's longest-reigning monarch.

For many sovereigns, the role comes at a tremendous personal cost; in Elizabeth's case, the loss of her beloved father. But, after a year of mourning—blighted further by the death of her grandmother, Queen Mary—the country was ready for a day of glittering pageantry, and the coronation celebrations served as the perfect tonic for postwar Britain.

Upon the suggestion that the event be televised, Winston Churchill, then prime

minister, voiced strong opposition, fearing it to be intrusive—or, as pompously expressed by the Duke of Norfolk in Netflix's *The Crown*, a show of “unconscionable vulgarization.” But Elizabeth went against the advice of her ministers, believing that the public had a right to enjoy the spectacle. Her decision proved a wise one, as approximately 20 million Britons tuned in to watch. The footage was then flown around the world, becoming the first major international event to be broadcast on television. Already the Queen had set a new precedent: every subsequent major royal event has been televised.

Sixteen months in the planning, the occasion was epic in scale. Personnel from all three branches of the military lined the processional route from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey, the site of

GETTY IMAGES



almost every coronation since 1066. Legions of people flocked to London, many spending a damp night camped out on the streets. Loudspeakers were installed to allow the public to share in the ceremony as it unfolded. A wave of raucous cheers greeted Elizabeth and Philip as they departed the palace in the 200-year-old gold state coach drawn by eight Windsor Grey horses.

The couple arrived at the abbey at 11 a.m. The Lord High Steward, who was charged with carrying St Edward's Crown (named after medieval king Edward the Confessor), preceded Elizabeth through the Great West Door as the archbishop of Canterbury announced her arrival. Following the administering of the oath and communion, Elizabeth prepared for her consecration. As she took her seat in St.

Elizabeth believed that the public had a right to enjoy the spectacle

Edward's Chair, the choir sang a rousing rendition of "Zadok the Priest," composed by Handel for George II's coronation in 1727. Under a canopy of cloth of gold held in place by four Knights of the Garter, the archbishop anointed Elizabeth with oil, at which point the cameras cut away, this being the only part of the ceremony considered too sacred to televise. The Queen was then invested, and as St. Edward's Crown was placed upon her head, the congregation chanted three

times: "God Save the Queen." While bells rang and guns fired in salute, the duly regaled queen left the abbey wearing the Imperial State Crown and carrying the Scepter with the Cross and the Sovereign's Orb for her return to Buckingham Palace.

Age only four, Prince Charles was present for his mother's crowning, taking in part of the service from his seat in the royal box between his grandmother, the Queen Mother, and his aunt, Princess Margaret. It remains to be seen how the British public will respond to his coronation—in the 21st-century, with deference becoming a thing of the past, some elements of these archaic customs may need to be modernized. After all, the monarchy's ability to adapt and evolve is one of the key reasons it continues to exist today. ●

Love & Marriage



Victoria's
**Beloved
Albert**

Disliked by the public, but passionately adored by Victoria—who never recovered from his early death—we trace how a minor German prince came to revolutionize the British monarchy

BY ELLIE CAWTHORNE

**1842: VICTORIAN
VISIONARY**

For 21 years, the queen's husband Albert worked tirelessly on a number of ambitious projects

BRIDGEMAN—ROYAL COLLECTION TRUST © HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II, 2018





“His eyes are large and blue, and he has a beautiful nose and a very sweet mouth with fine teeth; but the charm of his countenance is his expression, which is most delightful.”

This is how an excited young Victoria described the man who was to be her husband, when the pair first met as 16-year-olds. Over the course of the 21-year marriage that was to follow, her intense passion for Albert did not fade away. He would prove to be a stalwart in the queen's life—not only as a much-loved husband, but also as an invaluable companion and advisor. Although their partnership wasn't always an easy one, Albert undoubtedly shaped Victoria's life, even after his death.

Born just three months after Victoria in August 1819, Albert was the second son of the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, a minor German duchy. Like Victoria's, his childhood was not always a happy one. At age five, his mother was exiled for adultery, while his father was known for his promiscuity, a source of great embarrassment and shame for the moralistic Albert.

From an early age, a heavy emphasis was placed on the young prince's education. Through nine hours' tuition every day he became well versed in everything from international politics, and ancient history to mathematics and playing the piano. Albert would retain a love of learning for the rest of his life, but this intensive education had a purpose—to give the young prince all the tools he might need to one day govern a country.

Masterminding Albert's future was his uncle, Leopold I of Belgium, a well-known royal matchmaker who planned to marry Albert to his sister's daughter (Albert's first cousin), Princess Victoria. As the heir to one of Europe's most



1859: HANDSOME PRINCE

Victoria was so smitten with her German cousin that she proposed within just five days of their second meeting

While Albert was cool and unflappable, Victoria was hot-tempered and prone to flying off the handle

powerful thrones, she was a real catch for a second son from a minor German duchy, and Leopold hoped the match might afford him greater political influence in Britain.

Shortly after they first met, age 16, in an encounter engineered by Leopold, Victoria thanked her uncle for the introduction to Albert, who she found to be “so sensible, so kind, so good, and so amiable too”. When the young prince eventually returned to England three and a half years later, in October 1839, her mind was made up. Now queen, she was delighted to receive another visit from such an “extremely handsome” suitor. Within just five days of meeting Albert again, she had proposed (as royal tradition dictated that no one could propose marriage to a reigning monarch). “Oh! to

feel I am loved by such an angel as Albert, was too great delight to describe!” she wrote shortly afterwards. Despite the fact that their marriage had been set up as a political alliance, this was most definitely a love match.

The royal couple tied the knot on February 10, 1840, in the small chapel at St. James's Palace. Outside, the nation erupted into huge public celebration. Victoria recorded how she “never saw such crowds of people... they cheered most enthusiastically,” and reflected on the event as “the happiest day of my life.” The wedding night did not disappoint either. In her journal, the young queen enthusiastically recorded how “we both went to bed (of course in one bed). To lie by his side, and in his arms, and on his dear bosom, and be called by names of tenderness, I have never yet heard used to me before—was bliss beyond belief!” She elaborated on the night's pleasures, writing: “I never, never spent such an evening!! He clasped me in his arms, and we kissed each other again and again! His beauty, his sweetness and gentleness—really how can I ever be thankful enough to have such a husband!” The couple spent a brief three-day honeymoon at Windsor before Victoria had to return to the demands of royal duty.

Fierce arguments

Even when the honeymoon period was over, Victoria continued to idolize her husband, writing about him in her diary in deeply sentimental and adoring tones, deeming him “perfection in every way,” and possessed of “every quality that could be desired to make me perfectly happy.”

Yet although Victoria clearly worshipped her husband, that passion could be tempestuous, as the couple were not necessarily well matched in temperament. While Albert was cool and unflappable, with a reputation among the palace staff for being cold and distant, Victoria was hot-tempered, intensely emotional and prone to flying off the handle. Early on in their marriage, Albert wrote: “Victoria is too hasty and passionate for me to be able often to speak of my difficulties. She will not hear me out but flies into a rage and overwhelms me with reproaches of suspiciousness, want of trust, ambition, envy.” Unwilling to face her during her fits of blazing temper, Albert would walk



1840: WEDDED BLISS

Victoria gushingly described in her journal the ecstasy of her wedding day—and night

away from arguments, leaving his infuriated wife alone to stew while he calmly composed letters or notes to her detailing his grievances.

One of the sources of conflict was the balance of power in the marriage. According to her wedding vows Victoria had sworn to “obey” her husband, but as she was not simply Albert’s wife but also his queen, this proved to be a thorny issue. In a time when a man was expected to be the natural head of the household, Albert struggled with the fact that he was “only the husband and not the master of the house.” Seeking to assert himself as head of the family, he was not afraid to go against his wife’s wishes. In 1842, he dismissed Baroness Lehzen—who had been the queen’s beloved governess since childhood—in order to run the royal household himself.

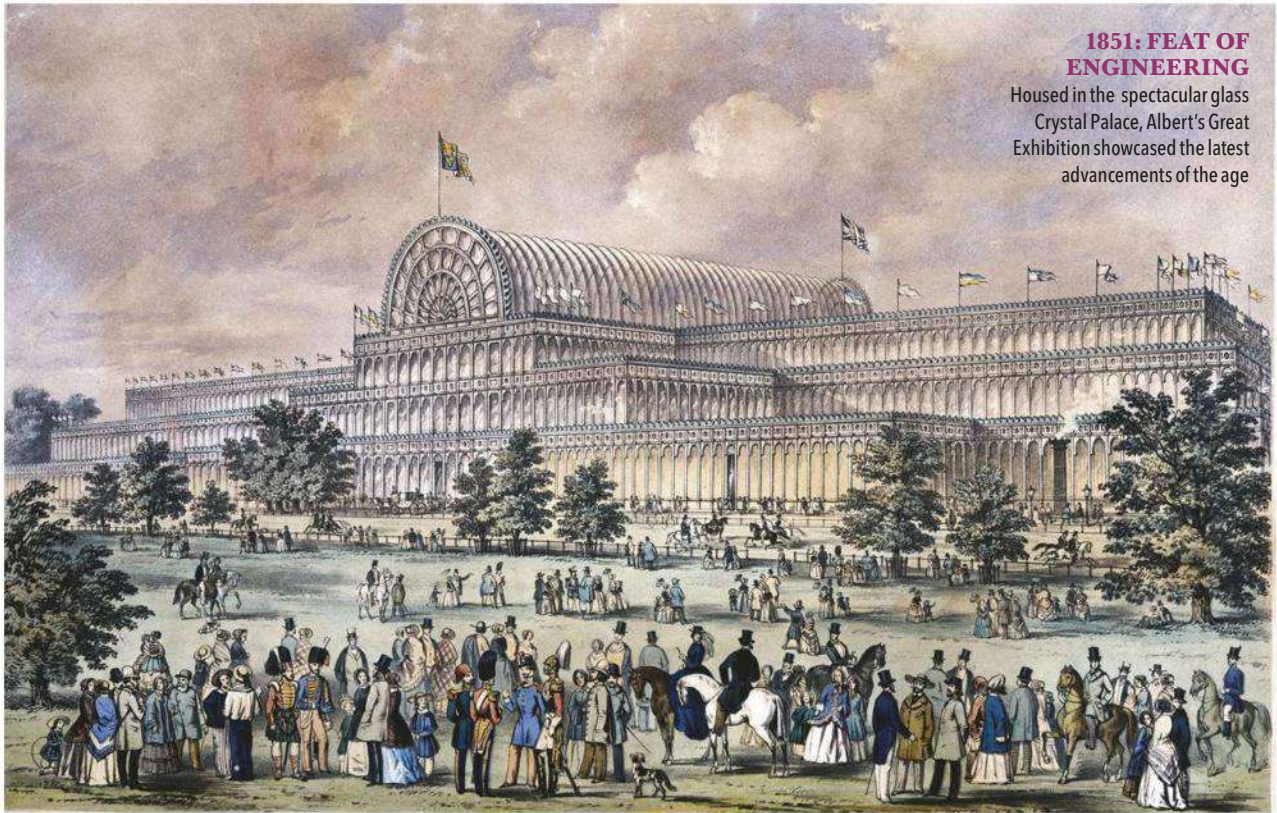
Albert was also keen to take an active role in official duties and furthering the monarchy’s political interests. Soon after their wedding, he began joining his wife at her political meetings. In November 1840, shortly after the birth of their first child, Vicky, he was given a key to her boxes of government papers. As the years passed, Albert assumed many of the

ALAMY/GETTY IMAGES

1851: LOOK OF LOVE

A photograph showing the royal couple apparently reenacting their special day, 11 years on





**1851: FEAT OF
ENGINEERING**

Housed in the spectacular glass
Crystal Palace, Albert's Great
Exhibition showcased the latest
advancements of the age



ALBERTOPOLIS

Albert used profits from the Great
Exhibition to fund a major
regeneration of South Kensington.
The area's cultural institutions
include the Royal College of Music

GETTY IMAGES/ALAMY

functions of a reigning monarch, and by 1850 he referred to himself as the “natural head of [the Queen’s] family, superintendent of her household, manager of her private affairs, sole confidential advisor in politics, and only assistant in her communications with the officers of her government.”

While the unusual power dynamics of their marriage did sometimes cause disputes, Victoria was frequently happy to follow the lead of the man she admired so ardently. Believing him to be her intellectual superior, she was grateful for his help with the mountain of royal duties. However, the influence Albert held over the queen concerned many around her. Courtiers and politicians were suspicious of Albert’s German background and his desire to be so heavily involved in the business of governance. Already mocked by the press as a poor relation with stiff, German manners, he was also derided as a foreign interloper who was trying to wrestle the queen’s power away from her. Victoria’s plans to give her husband the title of King Consort were quickly dismissed by prime minister Lord Melbourne, and Albert’s intended income was slashed.

Regardless of his critics’ concerns, Albert did a great deal to reinvestigate the

Albert was derided as a foreign interloper who was trying to wrestle the queen’s power from her

monarchy’s public image. Victoria’s Georgian predecessors, such as George IV, had gained a reputation for being drunken, debt-ridden and morally corrupt. Under Albert’s supervision, the royal family was recast as a harmonious domestic unit, one that served as a moral example to their subjects—arguably an image that the royal family is still keen to cultivate today. Albert also proved to be a sage political advisor to Victoria, encouraging her to engage with the welfare of the poor, especially in tackling the horrors of child labor in Britain’s factories. He also helped to steer his wife away from political partisanship, and proved to be a skilful diplomat in interna-

tional affairs, even helping to keep Britain out of war in the United States in 1861.

Tireless worker

Not content to simply sit back and enjoy his wife’s riches, Albert was a famously hard worker, who poured his seemingly endless energy into all manner of projects. As well as reorganizing the household’s outdated and illogical practices, he supervised the building of two new country retreats—Osborne and Balmoral. Both would go on to become Victoria’s favorite residences.

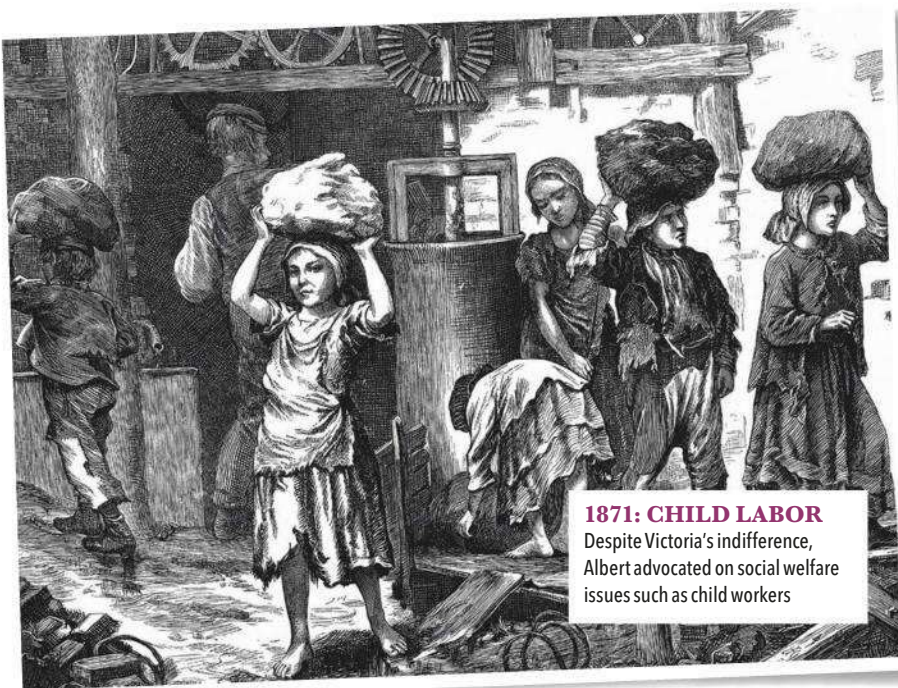
On top of this, he was a prolific patron of many charities and a zealous champion of culture, science and technology, masterminding projects that increased the monarchy’s popularity. One of the most striking was the 1851 Great Exhibition, a spectacular display of the latest innovations in art, technology, design and trade from across the globe. Housed in a magnificent glass structure known as the Crystal Palace, the event was a tremendous success, attracting a mammoth six million visitors. The money made was used to fund yet another of Albert’s ventures, London’s South Kensington museum complex—jokingly known as “Albertopolis”—that would go on to include, among others, the

THE REBEL BROTHER

As a boy, Albert was very close to his brother Ernest (pictured), just 14 months his senior. The two stuck together during their parents’ marital breakdown, a trauma that ended with their mother never being allowed to see them again. While Albert in later life enjoyed a loyal marriage and large family, the childless

Ernest (as reflected in *Victoria* series two) was just as promiscuous as his father and suffered from venereal disease for many years.

GETTY IMAGES



1871: CHILD LABOR

Despite Victoria’s indifference, Albert advocated on social welfare issues such as child workers



c1861: STRONG FATHER

Albert took charge of the education of the couple's nine children as well as his other duties and projects

COMFORT EATING

Victoria was a woman of immense appetite, and one of the ways she expressed her grief at losing Albert was through food. Although her waist measured just 22 inches when she came to the throne age 18, as a distraught widow Victoria – who was under 5ft tall – would regularly wolf down six courses in half an hour. By the time she died in 1901, her bloomers (underwear) had a 50-inch waist. “She is more like a barrel than anything else,” one doctor unkindly observed.

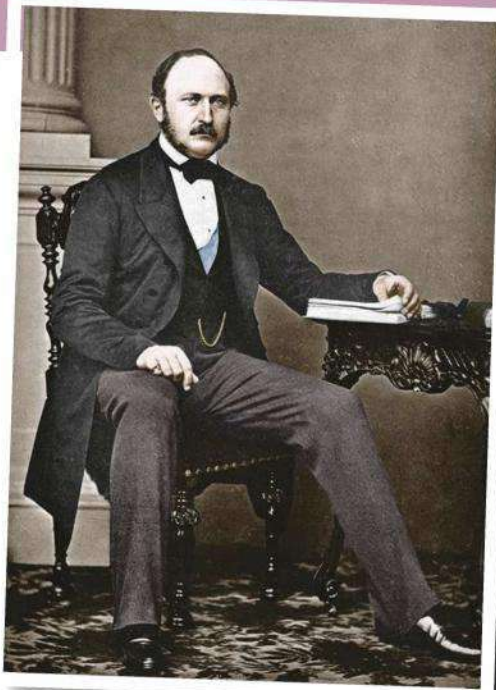


Science Museum, Natural History Museum, Royal Albert Hall and Royal College of Music. Over time, Albert's impressive vision and unwavering diligence gradually won over many of his critics. In 1857, after 17 years of tireless work, he was finally recognized with the title of Prince Consort.

All this work eventually took its toll on Albert, and his health began to deteriorate. In 1861, after hearing that his eldest son Bertie was involved in a scandalous affair, the overworked prince traveled to Cambridge to try to reason with his son. They took a long walk in the rain, and—soaked through—Albert caught a chill. His condition quickly worsened and three weeks later, on December 14, he died.

As an active man age just 42, Albert's death from a “low fever”, that is, typhoid (although the cause has since been conjectured as renal failure, Crohn's Disease or stomach cancer) came as a shock to everyone. For Victoria, the loss was not just shocking, but earth shattering: “like tearing the flesh from my bones.” During their years together,

GETTY IMAGES/BRIGHTON AND HOVE MUSEUM



1861: GREAT LOSS

Many obituaries expressed guilt that Albert's efforts for Britain had been underappreciated

1867: DEVASTATED

The queen retreated into permanent mourning at the loss of her adored husband and advisor

her husband had not only offered her constant emotional support but also shared her workload, continually offering advice and tirelessly helping out with royal duties. Now, she was overwhelmed by loss.

Unable to control her crippling grief, Victoria began adopting elaborate mourning rituals that rapidly became obsessive. As time went on, the situation began to spiral out of control, as the queen's period of mourning lasted far longer than the two years that convention dictated. She withdrew from public life, refusing to open parliament or to take part in royal celebrations. Although she had other intimate relationships—most notably a close friendship with her Scottish servant John Brown—she never remarried. Despite the decades that passed, she never fully recovered. Choosing to forget the troubles she and Albert had gone through, she venerated her dead husband like a saint, building elaborate monuments, memorials and statues in his honour, and continuing to wear mourning clothes right up until her own death. She slept beside a picture of Albert every night and had a set of clothes laid out for him every day. When the queen finally died in 1901, four decades after losing her husband, she was buried alongside him in the granite tomb she had



At Victoria's side, Albert had not only determined the course of her life, but that of her nation

commissioned for them both. Buried in her wedding veil with a plaster cast of Albert's hand, she remained devoted to him to the last.

Although only a royal consort by title, in the years that Albert had been at Victoria's side he had not only determined the course of her life, but that of her nation too. As the future prime minister Benjamin Disraeli remarked: "With Prince Albert we have buried our sovereign. This German Prince has governed England for 21 years with a wisdom and energy such as none of our kings have ever shown." ●



The royal couple's relationship was "obviously based on terrific attraction," says *Victoria* creator Daisy Goodwin

BACKSTAGE THE REAL HISTORY BEHIND VICTORIA

At the heart of *Victoria* is the evolving love story between the queen and her husband Albert. In order to create this storyline, writer and creator Daisy Goodwin has drawn on the queen's own diaries. Throughout her life, Victoria kept detailed journals in which she wrote frankly about her sex life with her husband. "It's not anything too explicit," Goodwin explains, "but she was very open about her admiration for the male form, which I think is rather charming. I found a particularly funny line where Victoria describes how wonderful Albert looks in his white cashmere breeches with nothing on underneath! Their relationship was obviously based on terrific attraction."

One thing that has fascinated Goodwin is the power struggle between the pair: an issue that resurfaces throughout the first and second series. "As a 19th-century couple, it was very tricky for them to negotiate who was really in charge," says Goodwin. "As husband, Albert was technically 'master', but Victoria was the queen. She tried hard to make Albert think that he was the boss, but ultimately she was the one with the money and the power. They were clearly devoted to each other, but there was undoubtedly a battle for dominance between them, and I think it's one that a lot of people will recognize."

WORDS Ellie Cawthorne




Prince Philip **A Life of Duty**

From dashing playboy naval officer to Elizabeth's stalwart companion for 70 years, Prince Philip has created a place for himself at the Queen's side, rather than in her shadow. But his role has not always been easy

BY SARAH GRISTWOOD

GETTY IMAGES



1947: HONEYMOONERS
Newlyweds Princess Elizabeth (age 21)
and naval officer Philip Mountbatten
are photographed a few days after their
wedding - the start of a partnership
lasting more than 70 years

Her husband, said Queen Elizabeth II in her golden wedding speech, “has, quite simply, been my strength and stay all these

years”—and what a lot of years it has turned out to be. Theirs is the longest royal marriage in British history. Her grandson, William, the Duke of Cambridge, says the support that Prince Philip has given the Queen is something of which she often speaks in private too.

This partnership has been one of the great achievements of the Queen’s reign. And it is all the more striking because the choice of consort for a female monarch has always been a difficult one—so difficult that, back in the days of the Tudor queens, the power a foreign husband might have over his spouse was often held to rule out a female monarch. Even in the 1940s, some courtiers expressed the same concerns about Philip.

At the wedding breakfast, on November 20, 1947, King George VI pronounced: “Our daughter is marrying the man she loves.” Philip, newly naturalized as a British subject, declared that he was “proud of my country and my wife,” and Princess Elizabeth (as then she was) said that: “I ask nothing more than that Philip and I should be as happy as my father and mother have been.”

This summed it up: love, duty and tradition. It was a genuine romance, but for a girl who was already so well-adapted to her regal role as only to fall in love within a limited gene pool. Philip was the great-great-grandson of Queen Victoria, and had been partly raised in Britain despite his Greek and Danish titles and his Danish and German ancestry.

Blossoming romance

The couple first met at family occasions when Elizabeth was a child. Then, in 1939, the 13-year-old princess accompanied her parents on a trip to the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth, where 18-year-old Philip was a cadet, helping to entertain the royal party.

The two exchanged letters and from that moment the idea of a match appears to have been in currency, not only with the young couple themselves, but with Philip’s uncle, Lord Mountbatten, who



2007: A LIFE TOGETHER

Photographed here to mark their diamond wedding anniversary, the Queen and Philip have the longest royal marriage in British history

Elizabeth was taken with this young man who seemed like “a Viking god”

fostered the idea every step of the way. Elizabeth, recalled her cousin Margaret Rhodes, was obviously taken with this young man who seemed like “a Viking god.” Philip meanwhile, even at this early stage, told his naval commander that he might marry the future queen—or so he’d been told by his “Uncle Dickie” (Lord Mountbatten).

But it was after the war that things became serious. By the time Philip was invited to Balmoral in the summer of 1946, it was clear Elizabeth was in love. She accepted his proposal that August, though the king’s consent had still to be obtained. George VI had doubts about the young man’s somewhat raffish reputation; about the fact Philip’s own father had been forcibly rejected by his country, leaving his family as penniless exiles; and about the role Philip’s ambitious uncle Mountbatten hoped to play. The princess’s parents asked her to wait some months and took her away on a long South Africa tour. But in July 1947 it was posted from Buckingham Palace that, “with the greatest pleasure,” king and queen announced the betrothal of their dearly beloved daughter to “Lieuten-

ant Philip Mountbatten, RN,” who had renounced his nationality, his name and his Greek Orthodox religion to make this a possibility.

There were still some concerns—concerns that mirrored, rather oddly, those that had greeted Prince Albert’s engagement to Queen Victoria. Albert too had been the candidate of a favourite uncle, and there were worries too over German Albert’s foreignness, and about his proposed title. (Victoria, who had wanted him to be called king consort, rather than prince consort, “ragged” over this in a perfectly “frantic” way.) The complaints of some MPs about the cost of Elizabeth and Philip’s wedding echoed those about the income Victoria and Albert would enjoy.

Crowd-pleasing wedding

The royal family had qualms about whether, so soon after World War II, and with rationing growing ever more stringent, a large public ceremony was really appropriate. But the majority opinion proved to be that of Winston Churchill—that it would be “a flash of color on the hard road we have to travel.” It was less than 30 years since the royals had begun holding their weddings in public, after centuries of private ceremonies, but it was already apparent that this was one of the best weapons in their armoury.

The wedding presents were put on display at St. James’s Palace—though presumably not the Aga Khan’s thoroughbred filly, or the Siamese kitten from two

GETTY IMAGES



1947: IT'S OFFICIAL

A portrait of Philip and Elizabeth on the announcement of their engagement. The princess's choice of husband caused some concern at the palace



1947: WEDDING BELLS

Philip renounced his Greek nationality, name and religion to marry Elizabeth. It was not deemed appropriate to invite his German relations to the wedding



1951: LIFE BEFORE THE CROWN

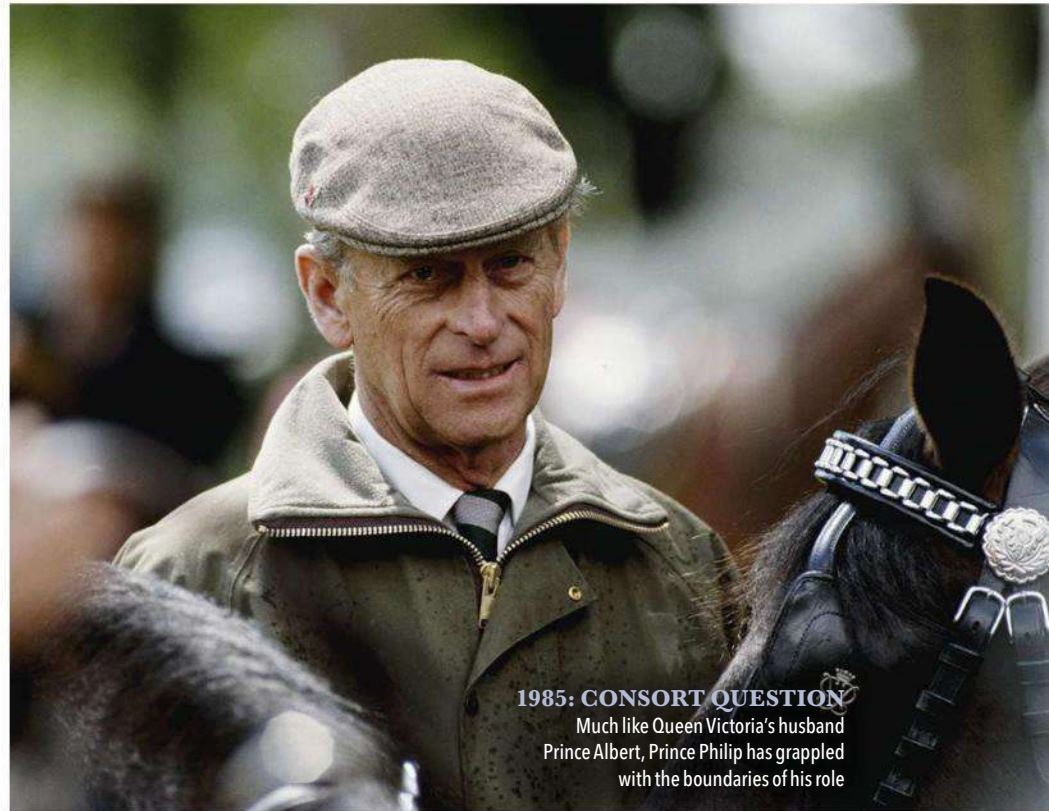
The young couple enjoy a dance held in their honor on a tour of Canada. Before Elizabeth's accession, she and Philip were able to live a relatively normal life

district nurses in Wiltshire. Nor, indeed, the hunting lodge from the people of Kenya. But there was the sapphire and diamond set from the king, who also gave hunting guns, the dinner service from President and Madame Chiang Kai-shek of China and the shawl Gandhi spun on his own wheel. (Queen Mary took it for one of his loincloths, and exclaimed at the indelicacy.)

The wedding dress from British designer Norman Hartnell was to be a triumph of patriotic production, with even the nationality of the worms turning out the silk proving to be a matter of debate. Hartnell's inspiration came from Botticelli's paintings, and the dress was to be a festival of flowers, with the blooms picked out in crystal and pearls—a promise of rebirth and growth after the long winter of war.

At the dance in the palace two nights before the wedding, King George led a conga through the state apartments, while the groom's bachelor party took place at the Dorchester Hotel. The crowd on the day was 50 people deep, despite the cold November weather. But the archbishop of York, officiating alongside the archbishop of Canterbury, said that the wedding in Westminster Abbey was "in all essentials exactly the same as it would have been for any cottager who might be married this afternoon in some small country church." The bride promised to obey her husband, and the couple left the abbey to the strains of Mendelssohn's "Wedding March." The wedding breakfast was an "austerity" event for a mere 150 guests, with the main course a casserole of unrationed partridges. As the couple set off to spend the first days of their honeymoon at Broadlands, Lord Mountbatten's Hampshire home, they were accompanied by the princess's favourite corgi.

This was the first time that newsreel cameras had been allowed to follow a wedding party into the abbey itself—an omen, perhaps, of the modernizing role Prince Philip would come to play within the royal family. Crowds around the world rushed to the cinemas to feel a part of what commentator after commentator described as a fairy story. Perhaps the only fly in the ointment was the fact that Philip's three surviving sisters, married to German princes, were not invited to the



1985: CONSORT QUESTION
Much like Queen Victoria's husband Prince Albert, Prince Philip has grappled with the boundaries of his role

There had always been debate about Philip's titles and place in the royal pecking order

ceremony. Just two years after the war against Germany had ended, wounds had not yet fully healed.

Husband to a new queen

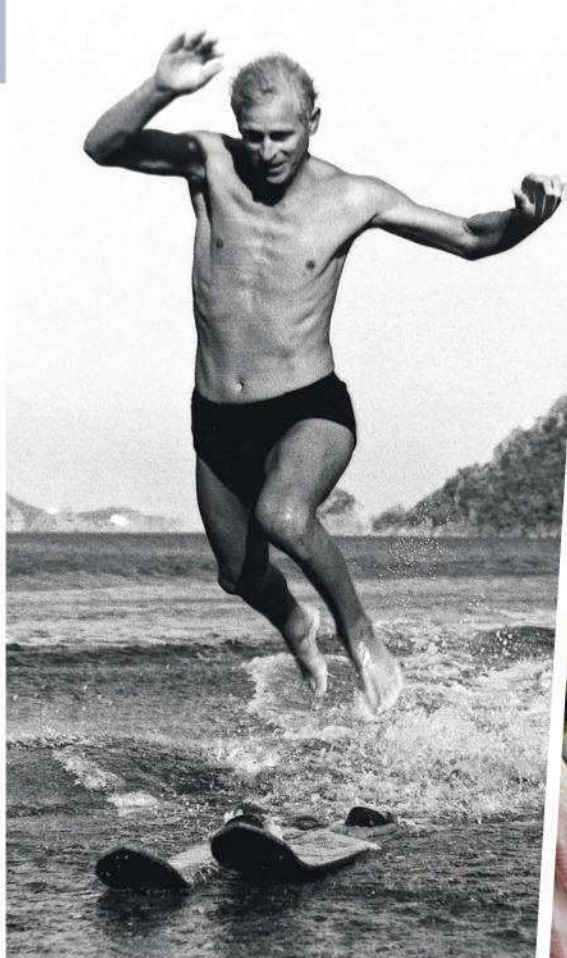
The couple's early years together were eased by the fact that Elizabeth (unlike Victoria) was still only a princess when she wed. The newly married couple were able to enjoy a long spell in Malta, with Elizabeth living the comparatively private life of a naval wife. George VI's failing health soon led to Philip giving up his naval career, but in 1952 news of the king's early death, and Elizabeth's precipitous accession, was arguably as great a shock for husband as for wife.

At Queen Elizabeth's coronation in 1953, Prince Philip was the first peer to swear allegiance to her, that he would be

her "liege man of life and limb." But there had always been debate about his precise titles and place in the royal pecking order. Now, with the new queen already the mother of two, the question of a surname arose—of whether, as his uncle unwisely boasted, Philip's House of Mountbatten now sat on the throne. The decision was taken that those directly in line for the throne should keep the name of Windsor, causing Philip to reportedly curse that he was "just a bloody amoeba," valued for his reproductive function and no more. As Elizabeth's reign progressed, there would be other issues over what Prince Philip's role was supposed to be.

Before the Queen's accession, Philip said, whatever they did was done together and "I suppose I naturally filled the principal position." No longer. Accounts vary as to whether it was the courtiers or the Queen herself who decreed her husband should not be privy to the red boxes of state papers or present at the weekly audiences with her prime ministers. Some saw this as similar to the way Victoria had tried to limit Albert's role to "dealing with the blotting paper." However, Victoria's pregnancies gave Albert his opportunity, so that he was

GETTY IMAGES



1951: LAST LAUGH

Philip water-skiing in Turkey at the end of his final tour with the Royal Navy. He abandoned his career to support Elizabeth as her official duties increased



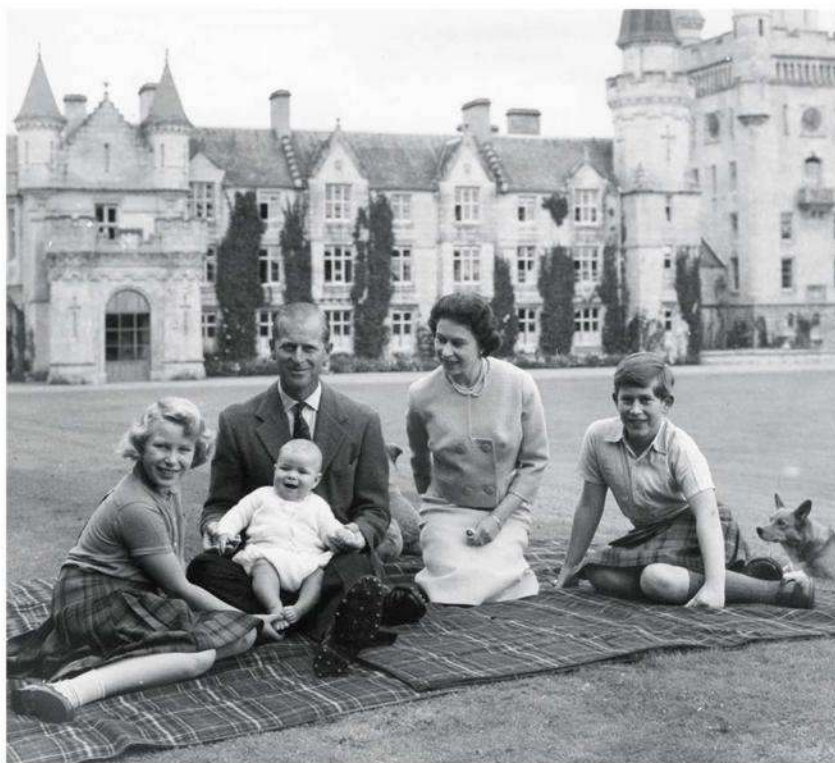
1982: SHARED INTEREST

The Queen and Philip pictured at the Windsor Horse Show. The couple share an interest in all things equestrian and the duke is a keen carriage driver

able to fulfill his hope of becoming not only “the natural head of the family,” but Victoria’s “sole confidential advisor in politics... her private secretary and her permanent minister.”

In 1972, Prince Philip was asked whether he saw his role as equivalent to Prince Albert’s as the power behind the throne. He answered that “times, circumstances and personalities are entirely different” today. In the late 1950s, when the first adjustments of the new reign were over and everyone was settling down for the long haul, there were indeed press reports of a “rift” between the Queen and her husband. But these would soon die away. Philip found a way to accommodate himself to the situation and then stuck to it. As his grandson Prince William says, he “totally put his personal career aside to support her, and he never takes the limelight, never oversteps the mark.” He has often been a force for change, insisting on the reform of some of the more arcane practices of the royal household (like the powdering of footmen’s wigs).

GETTY IMAGES



1960: FAMILY HEAD With their children Anne, Andrew and Charles (Edward would follow in 1964). Philip is said to have led on family decisions, including sending Charles to Gordonstoun School, which he hated →



2017: RETIREMENT

The portrait issued on the announcement of Philip's retirement from public duties. He has undertaken in excess of 22,200 solo engagements since 1952

RALPH HEIMANS

Philip cheered and encouraged the Queen into undertakings she did not at first find easy—the social, crowd-pleasing, aspect of her duties. He should perhaps take some share of the credit for the recent resurgence in the popularity of the monarchy. But the bottom line is that he is “always on her side, and he’s an unwavering companion,” as Prince William put it appreciatively.

Of course, the Duke of Edinburgh has not always been viewed so warmly. His famous gaffes, his brusqueness with the press and his impatience may just be the natural expression of a man of his age and background; or they may be an essential escape valve—a letting off of steam—for a man not temperamentally attuned to life in his wife’s shadow.

Unfortunately, the Queen and Prince Philip’s own happy marriage somehow failed to provide an example their children were able to follow. The marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer was also widely seen as a fairy story—hence the bafflement, from Queen as well as country, that it turned out so disastrously.

Here, perhaps, the Queen’s principle of allowing her husband to wear the trousers in their private life—sending Prince Charles to a school he hated, and urging him into marriage before he was

“He totally put his personal career aside to support her, and he never oversteps the mark”

ready—has made for difficulty. But another generation on and the royals may be able to take Elizabeth and Philip as an example and a legacy. Catherine, the Duchess of Cambridge has spoken of how “special” it must be for the Queen to have the support of a husband on public occasions “and behind closed doors,” as having to fulfill her role alone would be “a very, very lonely place to be.”

In spring 2017, after many, many years of devoted service, the 95-year-old Prince Philip announced that he would finally be retiring from public engagements. In his typical fashion, he joked, “well, I can’t stand up much longer!” It might be only after the duke is gone that we are likely to appreciate him properly, and to realize that this royal partnership, 70 years long, has been genuinely extraordinary. ●



GETTY IMAGES/ROBERT VIGLASKY-NETFLIX

2007: MILESTONES The couple and their children gather to mark their diamond wedding anniversary. They have since celebrated their platinum anniversary in 2017—an impressive 70-year royal marriage



Season two of *The Crown* deals with the Queen's hurt at Philip's rumored infidelity

BACKSTAGE

THE REAL HISTORY BEHIND THE CROWN

One of the trickiest topics covered in the hit Netflix drama is Prince Philip’s rumored marital infidelity. Throughout its second series, *The Crown* grapples with the question of whether the Queen’s husband—eager to escape the suffocating constraints of royal duty—was ever tempted to stray away from his wife.

Although writer Peter Morgan remains pointedly ambiguous over whether or not stories of Philip’s indiscretions are true, we see the prince flirting with an attractive female journalist, attending a raucous yet secretive gentlemen’s lunch club, and using a men-only royal tour on the *Britannia* yacht as a chance to let his hair down.

In one of the series’ most poignant moments, Elizabeth discovers a photograph of the Russian ballerina Galina Ulanova in her husband’s suitcase. A star dancer with the Bolshoi Ballet, Ulanova was generally considered to be one of the greatest ballerinas of her time. Yet while she really did visit London in 1956, there is no evidence that she and Philip were involved in any sort of extra-marital affair.

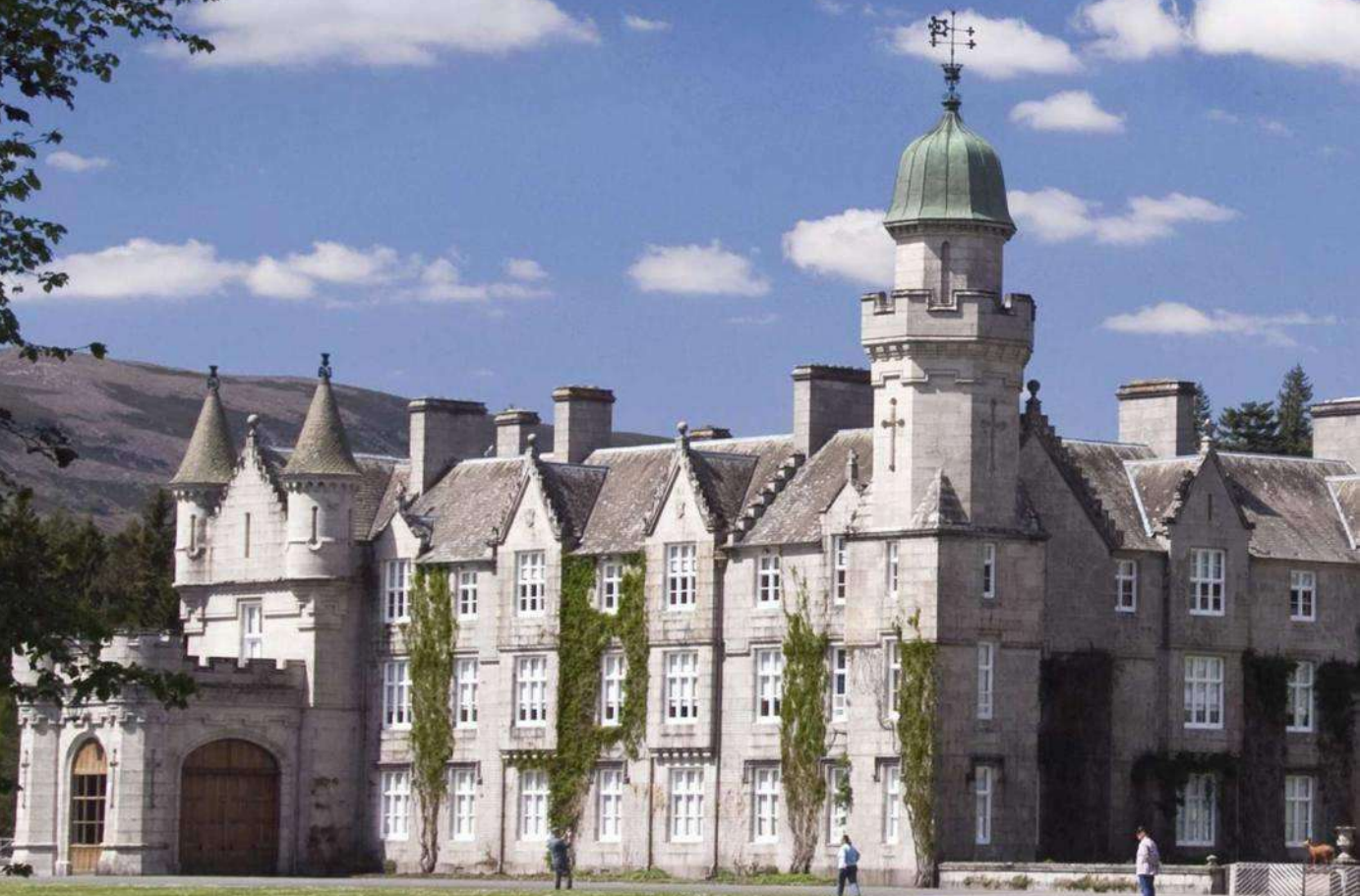
While a relationship with Galina Ulanova seems distinctly unlikely, Philip’s name was linked to several other women in the late 1950s and 1960s. Rumors of his infidelity served as a means of criticizing his playboy antics and carefree lifestyle. However, with a distinct lack of any concrete evidence, they remain simply rumors, nothing more.

WORDS Ellie Cawthorne



Glorious Palaces

VICTORIA AND ELIZABETH'S ROYAL RESIDENCES



From historic castles and lavish mansions to idyllic rural sanctuaries, we tour the royal homes that held a special place in Victoria and Elizabeth's hearts

BY VICTORIA ARBITER

GETTY IMAGES



BALMORAL CASTLE

The 50,000-acre Balmoral estate in Scotland has been a beloved family retreat for generations of British royals ever since it was privately purchased by Prince Albert in 1852. The family, however, deemed the original house too small and commissioned a new design.

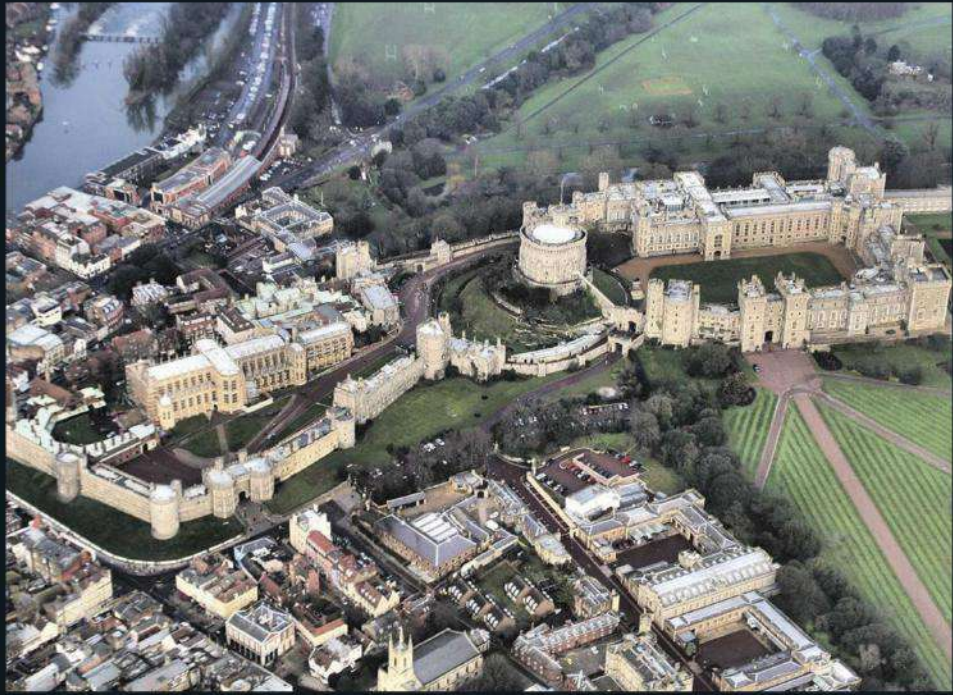
The castle as it exists today was completed in 1856. After Albert's untimely death, Victoria often shut herself away at Balmoral, where she befriended the Scottish servant John Brown, who became one of her closest confidants. Today, Queen Elizabeth and her family spend their annual summer holiday at the estate.



WINDSOR CASTLE

Windsor is the oldest occupied castle in the world. William the Conqueror began its construction in 1070, choosing the site for its location high above the river Thames and on the edge of a hunting ground. Over the course of almost 1,000 years, it has been home to 40 British sovereigns. Dismissing it as "prison-like," Queen Victoria preferred to light the castle with candles rather than newfangled electrical lighting and famously kept it cold and drafty. In 1861, her beloved Albert succumbed to typhoid in Windsor's Blue Room and on his death was buried in a specially created mausoleum in Windsor Home Park.

The Queen and her sister Margaret were largely raised at Windsor. It was here that they were sent during the war—the roof above the princesses' bedrooms was reinforced in case of attack—and the 14-year-old Elizabeth gave her first radio address, sending her best wishes to children who had been evacuated. Today the Queen spends most of her weekends at Windsor and takes up residence for a month each spring.



GETTY IMAGES

OSBORNE HOUSE

Queen Victoria and Prince Albert built Osborne House on the Isle of Wight, off England's south coast, as a summer retreat far removed from the stresses of court life. Largely completed by 1851, it was a particular favorite of Victoria's. "It is impossible to imagine a prettier spot," she exclaimed. On January 22, 1901, Victoria died at Osborne House surrounded by two generations of her family. She left strict instructions that the house should remain part of the family estate, but her children weren't as attached to the property and in 1902 her son Edward VII gifted Osborne to the nation. Victoria and Albert's private rooms remained sealed until 1954, when Queen Elizabeth gave permission for them to be opened to the public.





BUCKINGHAM PALACE

King George III bought Buckingham House, as it was then known, as a family home for his wife Queen Charlotte in 1761. But it was his son George IV who commissioned architect John Nash to turn it into a grand palace in the 1820s. Queen Victoria moved in in 1837, becoming the first British monarch to use it as the reigning sovereign's official London residence.

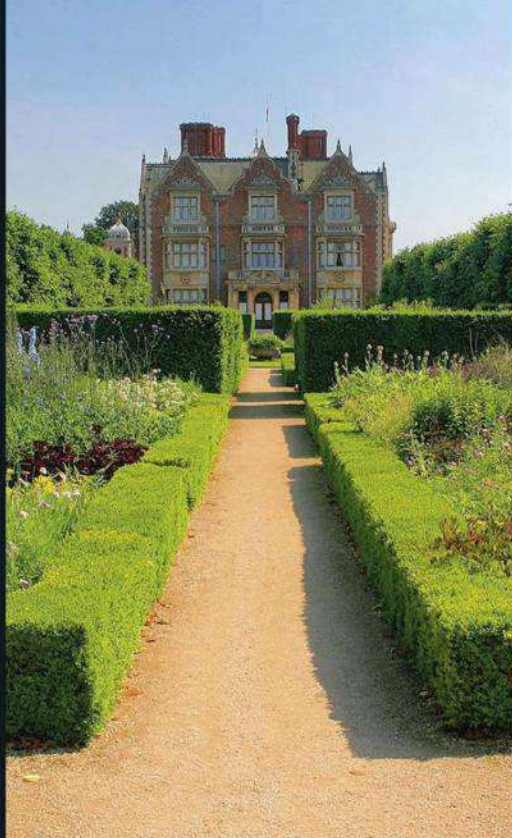
The balcony has become famous as a central spot in celebrations, and it was Victoria who first used it to make a public appearance during the opening of the Great Exhibition in 1851.

As a child, the Queen moved into Buckingham Palace with her family in 1937. Then known as Princess Elizabeth, she once remarked that, given the size of the place, "people here need bicycles." During World War II the palace was bombed on nine occasions, causing the Queen Mother to famously declare: "I'm glad we have been bombed. Now I can look the East End in the face."

Today the palace houses 19 state rooms, 52 royal and guest bedrooms, 78 bathrooms, a swimming pool, movie theater and a post office. It remains the administrative headquarters of the British monarch and also houses some of the greatest treasures from the Royal Collection, including paintings by Van Dyck and Canaletto.



GETTY IMAGES/ALAMY



SANDRINGHAM HOUSE

Sandringham, the Queen's Norfolk country retreat, has been a private home for four generations of royals, dating back to 1862. The house represents the jewel in the crown of a 20,000-acre estate once described by King George V as "the place I love better than anywhere in the world." Queen Victoria only visited the house twice, having purchased the original property in 1862 for her son, the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) and his soon-to-be wife Alexandra of Denmark. Each year the present royal family gathers at Sandringham to celebrate Christmas, and it was from there that the Queen delivered her first televised Christmas address in 1957.



SANDRINGHAM GARDENS

Intended as a private estate where Victoria's son Bertie (Edward VII) could indulge his love of hunting, Sandringham's grounds offered some of England's finest shooting. Royal hunting parties are still

entertained there today. Bertie's passion for outdoor pursuits led to the introduction of "Sandringham Time," when he ordered that all the clocks on the estate be set half an hour ahead to allow more daylight for hunting, a tradition upheld until 1936. ●

Visit a royal home



A royal residence for over 900 years, **Windsor Castle** is bursting with fascinating

artifacts, from Da Vinci artworks to a cat embroidery by Mary, Queen of Scots. The extraordinary state rooms have been painstakingly repaired after the fire damage of 1992.

➔ www.royalcollection.org.uk/visit



Frogmore House on the Windsor estate was the home of Victoria's mother, the Duchess of

Kent, for 20 years. Victoria often sought refuge there herself during her long widowhood.

➔ www.royalcollection.org.uk/visit



The Queen's official London residence, **Buckingham Palace** is open for ten weeks each

summer. Visitors can see opulent state rooms and sumptuous treasures, from Dutch masters to exquisite porcelain.

➔ www.royalcollection.org.uk/visit



Balmoral, a favorite rural retreat for both Victoria and Elizabeth, has its ballroom,

grounds, gardens and exhibitions open to the public on a daily basis in spring and summer.

➔ www.balmoralcastle.com



Immerse yourself in Victoriana at **Osborne House**, Victoria's beloved holiday home.

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Victoria's *Dysfunctional* Dynasty

Victoria and Albert presented the world with an image of a perfect royal family living in domestic bliss. But, to the queen's bitter disappointment, the reality was a different story

BY DENYS BLAKEWAY



ALAMY

1846: DOMESTIC BLISS?

Victoria and Albert surrounded by their growing brood. While the royals may look the embodiment of a respectable and harmonious family, behind closed doors they were anything but





Despite her notoriously dour reputation in later life, the young Victoria enjoyed an intensely physical relationship with her husband Albert—the product of which was their prodigious family. The royal couple saw nine children (four princes and five princesses) born between 1840 and 1857.

Victoria and Albert were united in the desire that their family should not just be loving and happy, but that they would set a moral example that would redefine royalty—a dynasty that would stretch across Europe, bringing peace and harmony to the fractious continent. It was a noble plan, motivated by the highest ideals, and one that was to lead to the creation of the modern idea of the royal family so familiar to us today. But, like so many of the best-laid plans, human nature got in the way.

It was Albert, the ambitious intellectual, who was responsible for shaping and modernizing the royal family in the 19th century. From the moment of his marriage to Victoria in 1840 to his untimely death 21 years later, he saw his purpose as protecting and nourishing the British monarchy at a time when political turmoil threatened at home and revolution was sweeping Europe.

Albert believed that in order to survive and prosper, the royals should be presented as an ordinary, respectable, close-knit and loving family. But of course the royal family was far from ordinary. They existed in an enclosed bubble of courtiers, where hostilities festered and where children were fawned over and flattered from the moment they were born. Yet at the same time these youngsters were expected to be model children, utterly obedient to their parents. This proved to be an intolerable tension.

Dangers of childbirth

Unsurprisingly, given the royal couple's physical infatuation, their first child, Princess Victoria—known in the family as Vicky—was born just nine months after their wedding. Busy with her duties as monarch, the queen could spare little time for her baby, seeing her only twice a day. Within a year of Vicky's birth, a second

child, Albert Edward (known as Bertie)—the future King Edward VII—was born. The queen now had a healthy male heir. "Our little boy is a wonderfully strong and large child," she wrote proudly. "I hope and pray he may be like his dearest Papa." With the succession reasonably assured, it might be thought a rest from the risks of childbearing would be appropriate. Not so. Over the next five years another three children were born: Alice, Alfred and Helena. In total, the queen gave birth to nine babies over 17 years—a tremendous physical feat, and a dangerous one given the high rates of maternal mortality at the time.

Although she gave birth to so many children, Victoria did not necessarily like babies. "An ugly baby is a very nasty object," she protested, "the prettiest are frightful when undressed...as long as they have their big body and little limbs and that terrible froglike action." Nor could she contemplate breastfeeding them, finding the whole process repulsive. A wet nurse was employed for all her children, as Victoria devoted herself to Albert.



1842: NEW MOTHER

Victoria with her first two children, Princess "Vicky" and the newborn "Bertie," the heir to the throne. The queen was pregnant throughout most of the 1840s

The young royals were expected to be model children, utterly obedient to their parents

Selling the "perfect" family

Despite these shortcomings, the royal couple set to work selling the image of the perfect model family to the masses. Before Victoria had taken the throne, the monarchy had fallen into disrepute, torn apart by feuding and scandal. Now, countless paintings and photographs portrayed Victoria and Albert as part of a harmonious family unit. Today these portraits are a lovely, if not strictly accurate, record of the royal family's changing image. The publicity worked, and Victoria was delighted: "They say no sovereign was ever more loved than I (I am bold enough to say), and this because of our happy domestic home and the good example it presents."

In a reversal of the typical gender roles of the time, Albert took responsibility for the upbringing of the children. He was a new type of father, with a hands-on approach to child rearing. From the beginning, his relationship with his first child, Vicky, went well. One governess remembered how he "tossed and romped with her, making her laugh and crow and kick heartily." Albert found his fatherly tasks fulfilling and stimulating, remarking, "There is certainly a great charm, as well as deep interest, in watching the development of feelings and faculties in a little child."

Victoria, by contrast, was far more distant and guarded. Ever self-centered and emotional, she came to resent the attention her husband paid to the children, triggering frequent outbursts and marital rows.

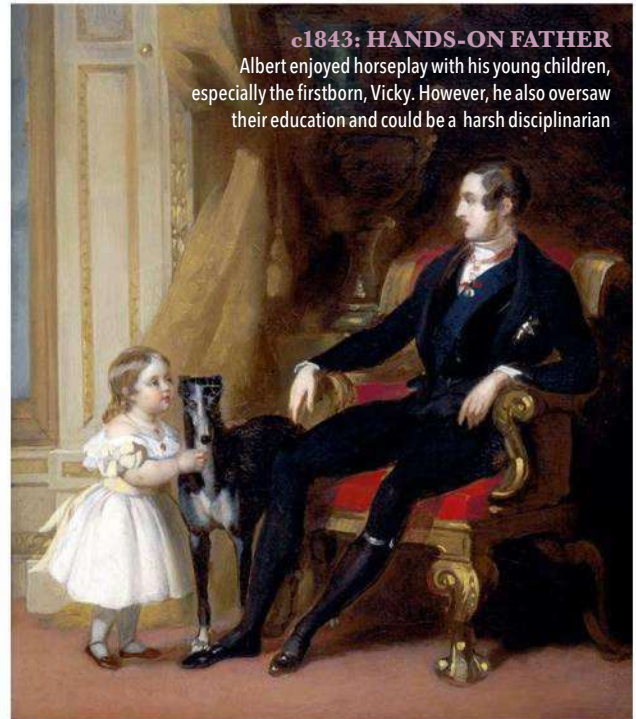
Punishing parents

Albert's intelligence was the product of an intensive German education, and he expected the same of his children—and more. He developed a punishing educational program for them that took little account of the abilities of an average intellect. They were coached in good manners and in the languages of the courts of Europe, especially German and French. On top of this was tuition in Latin, geography, math and science. Corporal punishment was at the heart of Albert's training. The children frequently received "a real punishment by whipping" if they stepped out of line, and Albert would hit his children's fingers during piano lessons when they played the wrong



1854: HOPELESSLY DEVOTED

Victoria's deep passion for Albert meant that she was frequently pregnant – which she loathed. A somewhat distant mother, she left Albert to manage the children's upbringing while she devoted herself to her royal duties



c1843: HANDS-ON FATHER

Albert enjoyed horseplay with his young children, especially the firstborn, Vicky. However, he also oversaw their education and could be a harsh disciplinarian

c1850: PICTURE PERFECT

A romantic depiction of the family on a fishing trip – one of many images to portray the royals as a devoted couple with loving, angelic children





notes. This strict educational system would have been tough even for the most able child, but for the mostly very average young princes and princesses it was torture. According to one of Albert's advisors, the prince consort's regime would give any child "brain fever."

The queen fully backed her husband's plan. She idolized him to the children, telling them "none of you can ever be proud enough of being the child of such a father who has not his equal in this world." It is clear that Victoria wanted her children, especially the boys, to be brought up as mini replicas of the man she adored so ardently. She especially prayed that Bertie, as the future king, would grow up to "resemble his angelic dearest Father in every, every respect, both in body and mind."

However, to his mother's despair, the heir to the throne turned out to be the opposite of his father in every respect. From an early age, Bertie obstinately refused to conform to his father's rules and regimes. Despite being stuffed with facts and theory, he found learning difficult and was unable to concentrate during his lessons. Bertie's tutor Frederick Gibbs remembered frequent schoolroom tantrums during arithmetic lessons with the prince of Wales: "He became passionate, the pencil was flung to the end of the room, the stool was kicked away and he was hardly able to apply himself at all."

Albert's educational plan for the heir to the throne of the greatest empire the world had ever seen was turning out a complete failure. Instead, his son was unwilling to learn, or even to stick to the rules. A despairing Victoria complained about Bertie's "systematic idleness, laziness—disregard of everything."

**To his mother's
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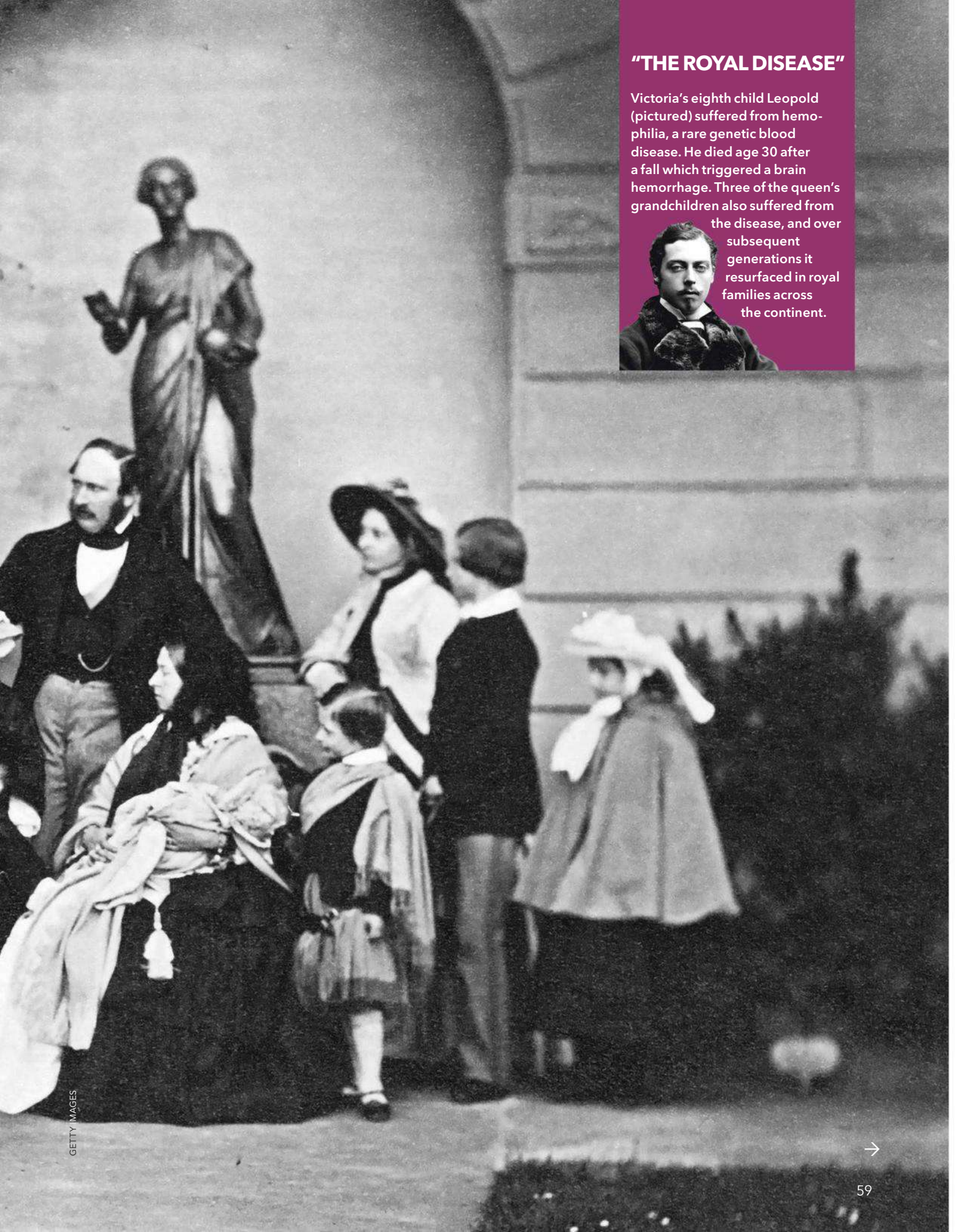
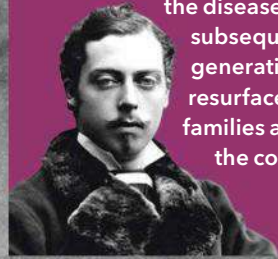
1857: FAMILY PORTRAIT

Shortly after the birth of their last child, Beatrice, Victoria and Albert are pictured with all of their nine children. Left to right: Alfred, Alice, Louise, Leopold, Prince Albert, Queen Victoria (holding Beatrice), Arthur, Victoria ("Vicky"), Albert ("Bertie") and Helena

"THE ROYAL DISEASE"

Victoria's eighth child Leopold (pictured) suffered from hemophilia, a rare genetic blood disease. He died age 30 after a fall which triggered a brain hemorrhage. Three of the queen's grandchildren also suffered from

the disease, and over subsequent generations it resurfaced in royal families across the continent.





The Prince of Wales was not the only one of the nine children who refused to conform to Albert's plan for the perfect royal upbringing. As each grew up, he or she displayed the quirks and characteristics of individual human nature. Albert was perplexed and dismayed, but the plan had to go on.

Royal matchmaking

As time passed, eight of the nine children were married off into European royal families (including Denmark, Prussia and Russia) in accord with Albert's plan to create a pan-European dynasty. First to go was the eldest, Princess Victoria, who was married to the future Frederick III of Prussia in 1858. Both parents were devastated to lose their 17-year-old, especially Albert, who wrote: "the pang of parting was great on all sides, and the void which Vicky has left in our household and family circle will stand



1858: MATCHMAKING

A diplomatic alliance is forged as 17-year-old Princess Vicky weds Frederick, heir to the Prussian throne. Eight of Queen Victoria's nine children were married off to royal houses across Europe

gaping for many a day." But dynastic duty had to override human feeling, and his favorite daughter was taken away to a new and bewildering life in the Prussian court.

In 1860, Albert began making arrangements for a key dynastic marriage between Bertie, the Prince of Wales, and Princess Alexandra of Denmark. In a changing world it was crucial that this be portrayed both as a worthwhile diplomatic alliance (which it was), and a love match. In an era of pious rectitude, the Victorian public demanded a pure marriage in which the heir to the throne appeared to be both virtuous and chaste.

In reality however, the Prince of Wales was anything but chaste. From an early age, his life was devoted to pleasure, much to his parents' alarm. In the summer of 1861 Bertie attended a training camp with the Grenadier Guards in Dublin, Ireland. His fellow officers arranged for a "lady of easy virtue" to join him for the night. The story of the prince's misadventures got back to his parents and provoked in Albert a furious, almost hysterical, response. He demanded to know how his son could have thrust himself "into the hands of one of the most abject of the human species, to be by her initiated in the sacred mysteries of creation?" All that Albert had been working towards seemed threatened. He warned Bertie: "you must not, you dare not be lost; the consequences for this country and the world at large would be too dreadful."

Bertie disappoints

The prince consort's plan for perfect children seemed to have failed utterly. Eventually, he found this intensive parenting exhausting, and the strain seemingly took its toll on his health. He suffered toothache, insomnia and fits of shivering. Sickening and feverish, in November 1861 he traveled to meet Bertie at Cambridge to harangue him on the error of his ways. Father and son went for a long walk in the rain. Bertie apologized, Albert forgave him and then returned to Windsor wet through, racked with pain in his legs and suffering from fever. He retired to bed, where his symptoms worsened.

On December 14, age only 42, Albert died. Victoria's grief was so great that it would dominate her family and the

1863: SETTLING DOWN

The wayward Bertie, Prince of Wales, marries Princess Alexandra of Denmark. His youthful indiscretions had brought him into bitter conflict with his parents



nation for decades to come. Perhaps most damagingly, she blamed her eldest son for her beloved's untimely death for years to come, even writing of Bertie, "I never can or shall look at him without a shudder."

With Albert's death, the idea of raising perfect children died too. Victoria managed as best she could, relying on her position as queen and her domineering character to make her children bend to her will. In this she was generally successful, though she and the Prince of Wales gave each other a wide berth. And her many letters show she was—despite her egocentricity and self-pity—always a loving mother at heart.

In her old age, Victoria was honest enough to reflect that: "As a rule your children are a bitter disappointment—their greatest object being to do precisely what their parents do not wish and have anxiously tried to prevent." The great matriarch concluded with an eternal truth that it had taken her years to come to appreciate; that "often when children have been less watched and less taken care of—the better they turn out! This is inexplicable and very annoying!"

Yet in the long run, Victoria and Albert's children did indeed turn out well

Victoria reflected that "children are a bitter disappointment—their greatest object being to do precisely what their parents do not wish"

enough, despite the untimely death of their father and the failure of his strict educational plan. Even Bertie, a libertine and prince of pleasure in his youth, eventually became a successful king whose easy charm and diplomatic skills ensured the continuing popularity of the British royal family and even helped strengthen a crucial alliance with France on the eve of World War I. In a surprising and all too human way, Albert's plan had worked out after all. ●



1894: THE FUTURE OF THE MONARCHY Victoria is pictured with her eldest son Bertie (left), her grandson George (later George V) and her newborn great-grandson Edward (later Edward VIII)



The queen struggles with pregnancy and her new role as a mother in *Victoria*

BACKSTAGE THE HISTORY BEHIND VICTORIA

One of the most difficult issues tackled in *Victoria* is the young queen's uneasy transition into motherhood, and in the second season, we see her struggling to strike up a bond with her firstborn baby. Series creator Daisy Goodwin was keen not to flinch away from this aspect of Victoria's life. "It was a real challenge for her and Albert," she explains. "We tend to sentimentalize motherhood these days, but Victoria was actually a very reluctant mother. She was particularly unhappy about the "invasion" of her body by pregnancy."

"After the birth of her second child Bertie, she almost certainly suffered from what we would now call postnatal depression," says Goodwin. This was something that the production team were keen to deal with sensitively. "The condition wasn't recognised at the time, when women were considered to be odd creatures prone to many strange emotions. It must have been very difficult indeed for Victoria to be queen and also to be in the grip of a mental illness," Goodwin explains.

While in reality Victoria gave birth to four children in just four years, this timeline is sped up on screen. "I felt that might get a little repetitive for viewers," explains Goodwin, "but we do see the terrific toll on all this childbearing took on Victoria both physically and mentally. Yet despite it all, she battled on, which I think is pretty impressive."

WORDS Ellie Cawthorne



Elizabeth at Home Duty vs Family

The Queen has always put duty above all else. But, as a mother, grandmother and matriarch, family life has been difficult to balance with the demands of being sovereign

BY VICTORIA ARBITER



GETTY IMAGES - LICHFIELD ARCHIVE

1972: BREAK FROM DUTY

A family holiday for the ultimate working mother. But what price did she pay for putting her royal obligations first?



Don't you think he is quite adorable? I still can't believe he is really mine," the then Princess Elizabeth wrote to a friend following the christening of Prince Charles. Such warmth reflected a dramatic change in attitudes to royal children since Queen Victoria's pronouncements on "ugly" and "froglike" babies a century earlier and, with each new generation since, modern philosophies have been embraced. Gone is the belief that children should be seen and not heard.

In June 1953, Elizabeth took her coronation oath amidst the hallowed halls of Westminster Abbey, pledging to serve both God and the people. As head of the world's most famous family, her commitment to service and duty has been much applauded, but what many fail to consider is the personal cost that comes with it. Her father's untimely death in 1952 at the age of 56 threw Elizabeth, then a young mother of two small children, into a life of constitutional duty beholden to a regimented and inflexible royal calendar. The very nature of her birth has afforded her a life of enormous privilege, but it has also been one in which her personal sacrifices are rarely recognized.

As a child, Elizabeth led an idyllic family life. Her father, Prince Albert (later King George VI), unburdened by the stresses imposed on his older brother (the future Edward VIII) as heir apparent, was an attentive father, who took great delight in the time spent at home with his wife and daughters. But it was all to change in 1936 when Edward VIII announced his decision to abdicate after a reign of only 325 days. Now first in line to the throne, and bound by a new set of responsibilities, it was clear that Elizabeth's relatively relaxed childhood would be difficult to emulate for her own family.

In November 1947 Elizabeth married Prince Philip and a year later the couple's first child, Prince Charles Philip Arthur George, was born. His sister Anne followed in 1950. Outwardly, the royal family appeared to be a contented one, but the gruelling royal schedule often led to weeks, even months apart. Laden by constitutional obligation, Elizabeth could rarely spend more than half an hour with



1952: YOUNG MOTHER

Elizabeth enjoys some family time with Philip, Charles and Anne in the grounds of Balmoral Castle in Scotland, seven months into her new role as Queen

her children before her day's engagements, returning in the evening for a brief period of playtime before bathing them and putting them to bed. Charles has since spoken of his unhappy childhood, softened by the nurturing relationship he shared with his nanny, Mabel Anderson, who filled the void left by his duty-bound mother. But such were the demands on the newly installed figurehead assuming her reign in what was a largely male-dominated world.

Public displays of affection

Archive newsreel from 1951 shows a young Prince Charles accompanying his grandmother and aunt to Euston station to greet his parents following their tour to Canada. As Elizabeth steps off the train she warmly embraces her mother before kissing the top of her son's head.

He appears to barely recognize her. Jumping forward 40 years, the images

Laden by constitutional obligation, the Queen could rarely spend more than half an hour with her children

stand in stark contrast to those of the Prince and Princess of Wales on tour to Canada in 1991. The couple raced up the gangplank to HMY *Britannia* for a joyful reunion with their sons, William and Harry, after a period of separation. Both Charles and Diana threw their arms around the boys in a very public display of affection. It is unfair, however, to compare across the generational divide. In 1951, Princess Elizabeth was required to maintain the public dignity expected of one in her position. Four decades later, changes in expectation and attitudes to royalty in general resulted in a public delighted to be afforded a glimpse of the loving relationship shared between royal parents and their offspring.

By the time Princes Andrew and Edward came along in 1960 and 1964 respectively, the Queen, then firmly established on the international stage and more confident in her position, was given a second chance at motherhood. She was able to embrace the role more readily, even though her sense of duty remained undiminished. Recently released private home movies reveal the Queen tickling a baby Prince Charles, flipping through family photo albums with the children and buying them ice cream in the local village shop. The outward facade may indicate a woman lacking in maternal warmth, but behind palace walls the truth appears to be quite the opposite.

In 1983 the media trumpeted Charles and Diana's "refreshing approach" to royal protocol in taking their then nine-month-old son, Prince William, on their six-week tour to Australia and New Zealand. Comparisons between the "detached" Queen who left her children behind during her six-month tour of the Commonwealth in 1953–54, and the new princess who "defied convention" were rampant, but as 30 years had passed, again it is a comparison impossible to justify. Deference was a thing of the past and, popular as she was, Diana was merely a princess, not the queen. When William and Catherine later embarked on their own tours they too took their young son, Prince George, and daughter Princess Charlotte.

A royal mother-in-law

The Queen's experience within the royal fishbowl, and the lessons learned during

1936: HAPPY HOME

Elizabeth's own idyllic childhood, complete with loving parents, sister and pets, changed when Edward VIII abdicated and her father became king



the Diana years, have helped inform her approach to family life. Contrary to popular belief, the Queen was always very fond of Diana, and consistently supported her daughter-in-law. She may not have identified with Diana's "touchy-feely" approach, but she recognized how successful it was, and that Diana was just what the institution needed to appeal to a new generation. As paparazzi interest in Charles's pretty young bride intensified, the Queen went so far as to hold a meeting at Buckingham Palace with Fleet Street's newspaper editors in 1981. She implored them to allow Diana some semblance of a private life. The late William Deedes, former editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, later recounted how the Queen observed: "It's hard on a girl if she can't go to the local sweet shop without being cornered by photographers." When asked why she couldn't send a footman for the sweets, the Queen replied: "I think that is the most pompous remark I have ever heard in my life." Just two months later, Britain's tabloids printed paparazzi photographs of a visibly pregnant Diana in a bikini while on holiday with Charles in the Bahamas. The palace's plea for privacy had fallen on deaf ears.

GETTY IMAGES



1951: LONG GONE

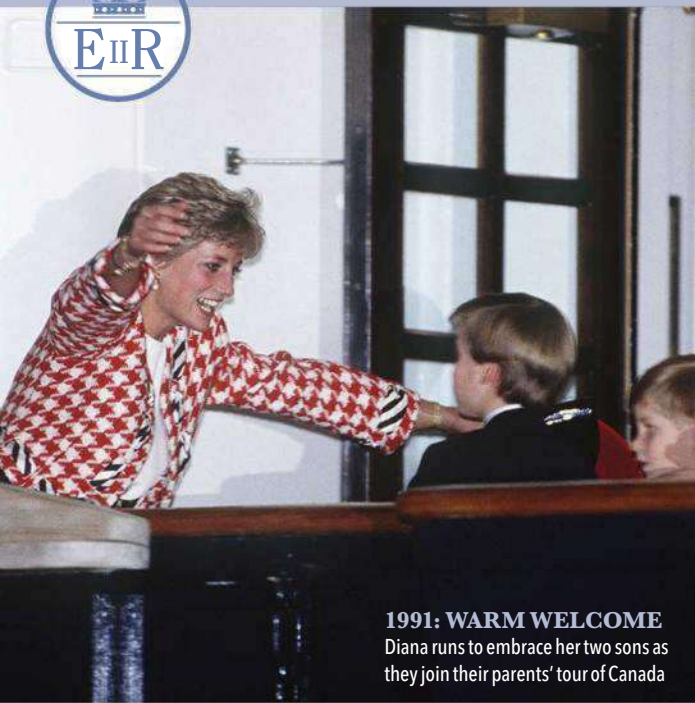
Elizabeth greets three-year-old Charles upon her return from a month-long tour of Canada



1983: HANDS-ON

Charles and Diana were more publicly affectionate with their children than earlier generations





1991: WARM WELCOME
Diana runs to embrace her two sons as they join their parents' tour of Canada



1990: CLOSE TIES
Elizabeth celebrates her mother's 90th birthday with Diana and Margaret



1997: TOUGH TIMES
The Queen received criticism for not displaying her grief at Diana's death

Induction into the royal firm has been difficult to navigate for all of the Queen's in-laws. Her children's marriages came about just as 24-hour news stations rolled out, and the royal soap opera of the early 1990s only helped fuel the media's insatiable appetite. Throughout it all, the Queen continued to lead by example, as opposed to running a dictatorship. In her self-deprecating fashion, Princess Anne has said of her mother: "As all mothers, she has put up with a lot, but we're still on speaking terms, so that's no mean achievement." For the family, she represents a well-respected role model, albeit one with a strong opinion should things go awry. Prince William has said of her: "She's a very good listener. If you do ever have problems, she'll listen and try to help... but she won't ever tell you what to do." He was quick to add that it's

clear when the Queen is displeased. "I've been in her bad books several times," he said in jest. "I've seen how the corgis get told off when they're in trouble... I don't want to go there." The Queen has long been a mentor for William, and the two are very close. During his time at Eton he regularly popped over the bridge to Windsor Castle for afternoon tea with his grandmother, and he continues to seek her counsel.

Supporting the younger generation

According to Prince Harry: "Behind closed doors, she's our grandmother. It's as simple as that." The demands of the royals' individual schedules may mean that family members are required to make appointments in order to see each other, but the practice is merely a formality, not

an indication of a family removed and out of touch. It is, however, what makes family Christmases at Sandringham a time to be cherished, as an opportunity for the entire family to gather under one roof, free of outside commitments. Like any other family, they have their traditions, but the highlight is often the personal or jokey gifts exchanged on Christmas Eve. The Duchess of Cambridge recalled: "I remember being at Sandringham for the first time at Christmas, and I was worried what to give the Queen as her Christmas present." She continued: "I thought, 'I'll make her something,' which could have gone horribly wrong, but I decided to make my Granny's recipe of chutney. I was slightly worried about it, but I noticed the next day that it was on the table. Such a simple gesture went such a long way for me.



2017: LEADING BY EXAMPLE
For the rest of the royal family the Queen is a well-respected role model with strong opinions



2003: GOOD LISTENER

Harry and William have talked warmly of the Queen as a grandmother and adviser



2012: MENTOR

The Queen has helped Catherine prepare for her future role as queen

I think it just shows her thoughtfulness and her care in looking after everybody.”

Well aware of the enormity of Catherine’s future role, the Queen has strived to help her adjust to life in the spotlight since her marriage to William. The Duchess of Cambridge appears to have been given unofficial permission to focus on her growing young family while carrying out limited royal duties. Elizabeth seems to have sought to afford William and Catherine a quiet family existence, free of the strains of royal life—an opportunity both she and Diana were denied. In recent months, it appears that she has been just as welcoming to the newest addition to the family—Prince Harry’s fiancée Meghan Markle.

Throughout her reign, the Queen has resolutely put duty first, but following the death of Diana in 1997, the welfare of Princes William and Harry was her sole concern. Years from now, historians may say that the week Diana died represented

the only time throughout her reign that the Queen truly put family before all else. In the days leading up to Diana’s funeral she chose to remain at Balmoral to comfort her grieving grandsons rather than return to London. Deafened to the cries of rage from the press over its absentee monarch, she remained steadfast. Now, 20 years later, it is easy to understand why she stood her ground, but for a public used to turning to its queen in times of national crisis, it seemed inconceivable that she didn’t return to the capital immediately. While one can only speculate over the resolve in her decision, it was perhaps also an opportunity to right the wrongs of early motherhood, when the demands of queenship meant she wasn’t present for her own children during their formative years.

Now in her seventh decade on the throne, the Queen is ever more relaxed in her role, both in private and in public, and she can now add great-grandmother to her long list of titles. She might be Her Majesty to the masses, but to the youngest generation of her family she is more commonly known as “Gan-Gan,” the same name that she used when referring to her own grandmother, Queen Mary. Her subjects the world over can look to her and learn from a life so impeccably lived, but it was Prince Harry who recently said: “I can go to her for advice and bend her ear over all the experience she’s had over the years.” At the end of the day, isn’t that what grandmothers are for? ●

“She’s a very good listener. If you ever have problems, she’ll try to help... but she won’t tell you what to do”



Princess Margaret’s doomed relationship with Peter Townsend features in the first season of *The Crown*

BACKSTAGE

THE REAL HISTORY BEHIND *THE CROWN*

A key figure in Elizabeth’s life was her younger sister, Princess Margaret. Although they were close, the two sisters could not have been more different. While Elizabeth was known for being sensible, reliable and driven by duty, the free-spirited and vivacious Margaret provided the royal family with a sparkle of glamor. In *The Crown*, we see the sisters coming into conflict when Elizabeth refuses to permit Margaret’s marriage to divorced father of two, Group Captain Peter Townsend, on the basis that the Church of England did not permit remarriage after divorce. This plotline is based on a real incident from the early 1950s. Despite the public showing support for the couple, in 1955 Margaret eventually gave Peter up in order to maintain her royal privileges.

Although in a public statement Margaret asserted that she had “reached this decision entirely alone,” in *The Crown* we see the devastated princess bitterly blame the Queen for her heartbreak, and begin to descend into a spiral of self-destructive behaviour. In reality, we cannot be certain of the extent to which events caused a rift between the Windsor sisters who, despite everything, remained in close contact until Margaret’s death in 2002. Whether or not what we see on screen is an accurate reflection of what happened behind closed doors, it’s certainly a neat illustration of Elizabeth’s continued struggle to balance royal duty with family loyalty.

WORDS Ellie Cawthorne

Relationships



Four Friendships *that Shaped Victoria*

She had a formidable and prickly reputation, so what was the secret of the four men who forged genuinely warm relationships with the frosty queen?

BY ELLIE CAWTHORNE

GETTY IMAGES/MARY EVANS/TOFFOTO



Disraeli, Brown, Karim and Melbourne: two prime ministers and two servants who enjoyed friendships with the notoriously difficult queen

Lord Melbourne

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MENTOR SHE LOVED "LIKE A FATHER"

Viewers of the TV series *Victoria* know Lord Melbourne as a charming and handsome older man who captivates the young queen. Yet while the real Victoria undoubtedly felt great affection for her first prime minister, this portrayal of Melbourne as a dashing suitor takes a few dramatic liberties. In reality, William Lamb, 2nd Viscount Melbourne, was a full 40 years older than Victoria. By the time of the 18-year-old princess's accession in 1837, he was already a distinguished gentleman of 58.

Keen to flatter and influence the young queen from the very beginning, Melbourne advised her on everything from foreign affairs to watching her weight. Victoria—whose father had died when she was a baby—described him in her journal as "the one I look up to as a father." The pair spent a great deal of time together, and she even gave him a private apartment at Windsor Castle. "He has such a kind and agreeable manner," she wrote, "he does me the world of good."

However, this intimacy with the Whig "Lord M" made the young queen unpopular with many who felt she relied too heavily on his advice. Victoria was criticized for being politically partisan and even mockingly called "Mrs Mel-

bourne." Tensions came to a head in 1839, when Melbourne suffered a parliamentary defeat and his opponent, the Conservative Robert Peel, emerged as the nation's new leader. Regardless, Victoria continued to appoint her ladies-in-waiting according to her old tutor's advice. Insulted by this apparent favoritism, Peel refused to form a government until some of her attendants had been replaced. This potential constitutional furore—the so-called "Bedchamber Crisis"—was only defused when Prince Albert persuaded some of Victoria's ladies to resign. Even so, Peel refused to form a government, and Melbourne's Whigs returned to power.

After her marriage to Albert in 1840, Victoria increasingly turned to her new husband for advice and became less reliant on Lord Melbourne's mentorship. In 1841, he resigned as prime minister. The pair gradually lost contact and, weakened by a stroke, Melbourne died in 1848.



The first series of *Victoria* depicts the unusually close relationship between Melbourne (Rufus Sewell) and Victoria (Jenna Coleman)

BRIDGEMAN/REX FEATURES

The inexperienced young Victoria relied heavily on the aging Melbourne for advice, earning the epithet "Mrs Melbourne" for her perceived political bias





Benjamin Disraeli

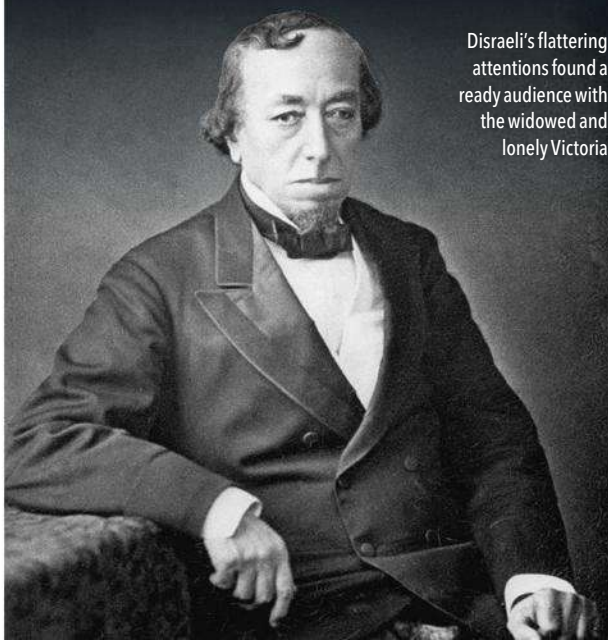
THE SHAMELESS FLATTERER WHO MADE HER EMPRESS

Over her six decades on the throne, Victoria saw many prime ministers come and go. While some failed spectacularly to win her favor, she established a remarkably close bond with others. One of the queen's favorite political figures was Benjamin "Dizzy" Disraeli, a Conservative politician who in 1868 became Britain's first—and so far only—prime minister of Jewish heritage.

Disraeli pulled out all the stops to win the queen over with charm and flattery. When asked by a colleague how to handle the often ill-tempered queen, he reportedly responded: "first of all, remember she is a woman." These calculated tactics clearly worked, as the queen told her eldest daughter Vicky that Disraeli was "full of poetry, romance and chivalry" and would "do very well." He was one of only two prime ministers that Victoria offered the privilege of sitting during their private audiences. A gentleman to the last, he declined.

After helping to coax Victoria back to her political duties following the death of Prince Albert, in 1877 Disraeli pronounced the queen Empress of India. She had pushed for the title for several years but, concerned about its absolutist connotations, the prime minister had been hesitant to agree. Eventually, Victoria had become so insistent that Disraeli felt he could resist no longer for fear of offending her.

Not every prime minister was as masterful at charming the queen. Disraeli's great political rival William Gladstone proved much less willing to flatter and cajole Victoria, who consequently found him entirely infuriating, both personally and politically. With her characteristically sharp tongue, she dismissed Gladstone as a "half-crazy, and in many ways ridiculous, wild and incomprehensible old fanatic."



Disraeli's flattering attentions found a ready audience with the widowed and lonely Victoria



Victoria called Brown "one of the most remarkable men who could be known"

John Brown

HER "DEAR FAITHFUL FRIEND"

Following Prince Albert's death in 1861, Victoria was crippled by grief. The once sociable queen retreated from public life, entering into a deep, isolating depression. One of her few glimmers of happiness in this dark period was an unlikely friendship with Scottish servant John Brown.

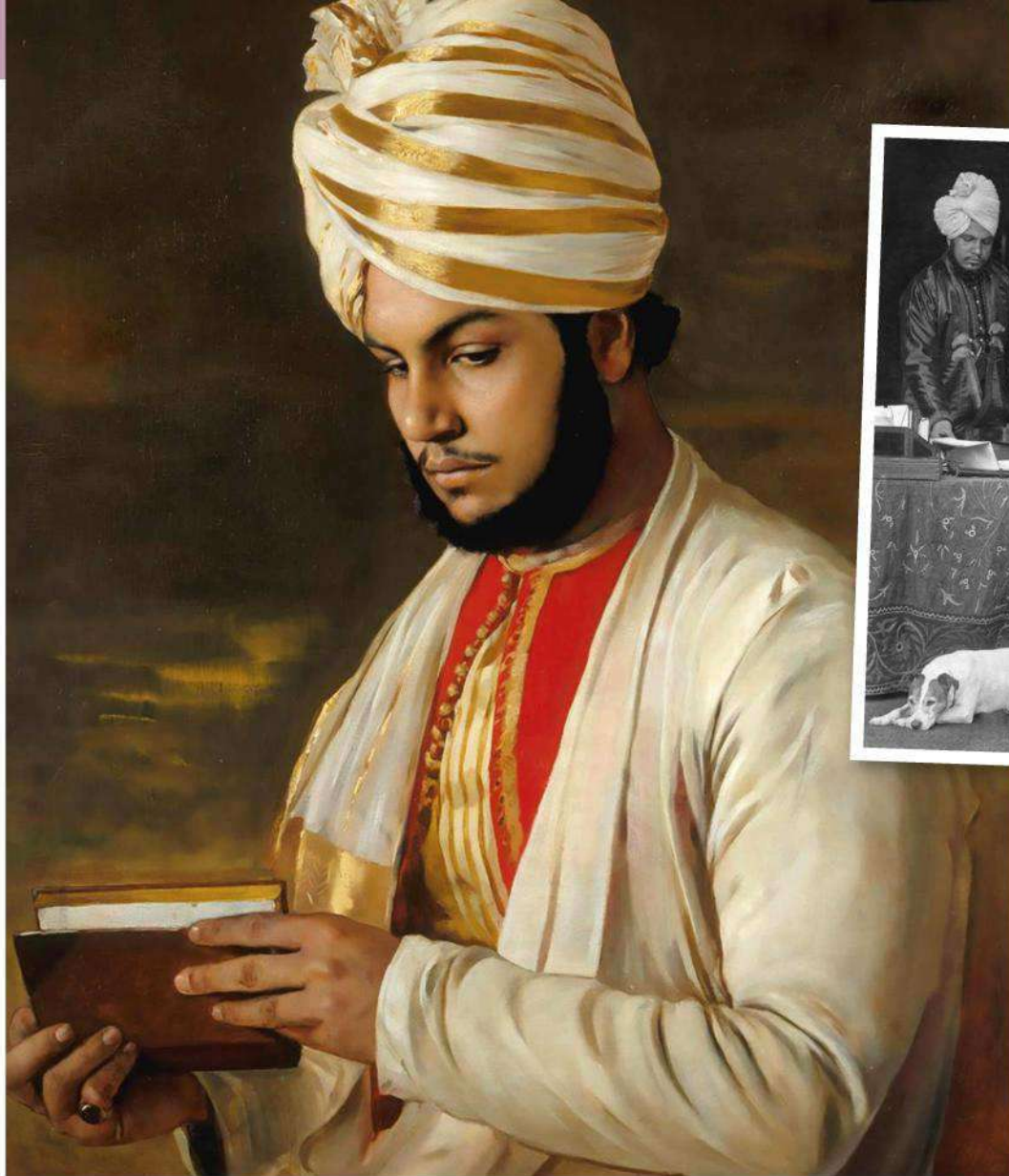
Brown had worked as a *ghillie* (or outdoor servant) at Balmoral Castle in Scotland for several years during Victoria's marriage to Albert, but it was after the prince's death that the queen really came to value his company. She found his informality and sense of humor refreshing, and over time the two formed a strong bond.

The queen wrote glowingly of Brown's "most fearless uprightness, kindness, sense of justice, honesty, independence and unselfishness, combined with a tender, warm heart," suggesting that "perhaps never in history was there so strong and true an attachment, so warm and loving a friendship between the sovereign and servant."

While the Scotsman's willingness to speak plainly clearly appealed to Victoria, his rough manners galled many around her, including her own children, who were baffled by their mother's close companionship with a common servant. Salacious rumors were spread about the pair, claiming that they shared a sexual relationship or had even married in secret. Yet despite the risk to her reputation, Victoria was unwavering in her devotion—and wasn't afraid to show it. She even created a devoted service medal to honor him.

In 1883, Brown died, age 56. His death hit Victoria hard. She mournfully wrote that she felt "terribly shaken and quite unable to walk," and was "missing more than ever her dear faithful friend's strong arm." Victoria never forgot her devoted servant: as per her final requests, a photograph of Brown and a lock of his hair were lowered into her grave with her. A bronze statue of him—commissioned by Victoria after his death—still stands in the grounds at Balmoral.

GETTY IMAGES



LEFT: An oil painting of Abdul Karim commissioned by the queen just a year after they met
ABOVE: Her close friendship with the "Munshi" infuriated the royal household

Abdul Karim

HER CLOSEST CONFIDANT WHO SET TONGUES WAGGING

Perhaps the most unexpected friendship Victoria enjoyed was with Abdul Karim, a young Indian servant sent to England for the 1887 golden jubilee celebrations. Age just 24 at the time, Karim was a former clerk at Agra jail. Victoria first encountered him when he served her breakfast at Frogmore House, her attention immediately captured by his dazzling scarlet tunic, white turban and "fine serious countenance." To everyone's surprise, the unlikely pair struck up an instant rapport and Karim quickly went from waiting tables to acting as one of the queen's closest confidants.

Although she was never able to visit India, Victoria was fascinated by the

country. Karim inspired the queen with tales of his homeland, gave her daily Urdu and Hindi lessons and even introduced her to curry. As their friendship intensified, she called him her "Munshi" or teacher, and granted him titles and land back in India.

In many ways Karim filled the void left by her companion John Brown—who had died four years before Karim's arrival in England—similarly offering the queen a refreshing escape from the stuffy formality of her courtiers. Just like Brown, his closeness with Victoria also unleashed a torrent of disapproval. While the queen's friendship with the Scottish servant had been seen as evidence of eccentricity by her

courtiers, her decision to befriend a young Indian Muslim was deemed pure insanity. Many were appalled by the influence that Karim wielded over the queen, and a vicious campaign was launched to discredit him. Yet once again Victoria stubbornly refused to give up her companion.

Victoria's son Bertie had always despised Karim, and within hours of the queen's death in 1901 he evicted the Munshi from the royal court, and ordered that all the letters Karim had received from Victoria be destroyed. Having been one of the queen's closest companions for over 13 years, Karim was forced to return to India to live in obscurity. ●



Elizabeth *and* Churchill

The first of 13 prime ministers to serve during Elizabeth's reign, wartime hero Winston Churchill enjoyed a special relationship with the young queen

BY STEPHEN BATES

At about nine o'clock on the morning of February 6, 1952, Edward Ford, the assistant private secretary of King George VI, drove hurriedly from Buckingham Palace to Downing Street to see the prime minister, Winston Churchill. He had an urgent message to impart: an hour and a half earlier, the king had been found dead in his bed at the royal family's Sandringham estate in Norfolk. Although he had been ill for months with lung cancer, the king had spent the previous day out shooting and had retired to bed as usual. He had died of a heart attack during the night.

King George's death meant that his eldest daughter, 25-year-old Princess Elizabeth, who was at that moment watching wildlife in the Kenyan bush with her husband Philip, had suddenly become queen.

Ford was shown into Churchill's bedroom, where the 77-year-old prime minister was still in his pyjamas, a candle

Churchill first met the future queen when she was only two and a half years old

beside him to light his cigar and official papers spread out across the bed clothes. "I've got bad news," said Ford, "The king died this morning." Churchill was shaken: "Bad news? The worst!" he exclaimed, throwing aside the papers, "How unimportant these matters seem." As he sat with tears in his eyes, his secretary tried to console him by saying how well he would get on with the new queen. All he could say was that he did not know her and she was only a child.

Fond friends

That was not strictly true. Churchill had first met the solemn little princess when she was only two and a half years old in 1928, and he had written to his wife

GETTY IMAGES



1955: ALL SMILES

The Queen is photographed with her first—and some say her favourite—prime minister, Sir Winston Churchill



Clementine then: “She had an air of authority and reflectiveness, astonishing in an infant.”

Now, however, she was his sovereign. For the next three years, until he finally resigned in April 1955 at the age of 80, Churchill would be her first prime minister, responsible for guiding her—and perhaps occasionally misguiding her—in the early period of her reign.

It is a measure of the Queen’s longevity that three of her now 13 prime ministers have been born since she has been monarch. Churchill, however, had been a senior minister in governments since long before the Queen was even born. Old enough to be her grandfather and also an ardent monarchist, he treated her with both affection and deference.

The first iconic picture of the Queen’s reign was of her, dressed in black, descending the steps of the aircraft that brought her back to England the day after her father’s death. With his ministerial colleagues in a line beside him, in formal dress Churchill waited to greet her.

There was a marked and courtly obsequiousness in the relationship between the Queen and Churchill, reminiscent of the late Victorian period 60 years earlier. All British prime ministers have weekly private audiences with the Queen—no one else is present, no notes are taken—to discuss current events, and Churchill customarily dressed

“She had him round her little finger. I think he was absolutely crazy in love with her”

up in frock coat and a top hat (formal clothes long out of fashion) to meet the monarch at the palace. Even as the prime minister grew older and less engaged in the business of government, it was noticed that the meetings grew longer. One of Churchill’s private secretaries once asked: what had they talked about? “Mostly racing,” he apparently replied nonchalantly—the Queen’s favourite pastime—“and polo,” which he had played in India as a young army officer.

Coronation clash

Despite their intimacy, the prime minister did occasionally, if mildly, rebuke the young queen. In 1954, he joined her on the royal yacht *Britannia* sailing up the Thames into London, and when she remarked how dirty the river was, barked back: “This is the silver thread that goes through British history—never forget it.”

After more than 60 years, it is hard to appreciate just how conservative and stuffy Britain was in the postwar years. It was still a highly deferential society. According to opinion polls, a third of the population believed that the young monarch had been chosen by God—and, in 1952, only about half a million households had a television. Churchill, who did not watch it, disdainfully called the new medium “the Tee-Vee.” He was instinctively opposed to the coronation being televised (as was the archbishop of Canterbury), but bowed to the Queen’s decision to allow the cameras into Westminster Abbey for the ceremony: “After all it is the Queen who is being

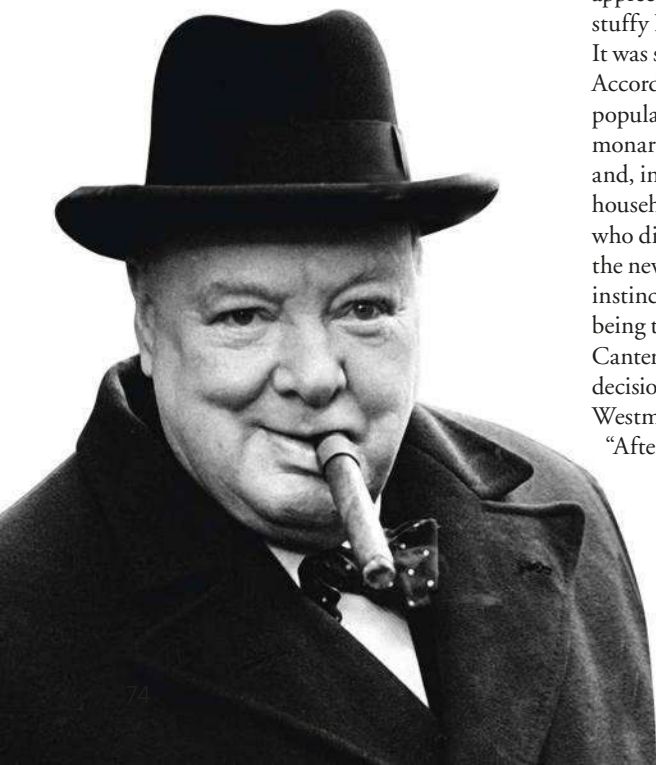
crowned... and if that’s what she wants it shall be so.” And it was a great success.

He had neither the wish nor the energy to change things, least of all the hide-bound monarchy. Now into his second term as prime minister, his first in peace time, Churchill was old and tired. His colleagues complained that cabinet meetings became like dinner table audiences, and he spent the evenings playing the card game bezique.

Three weeks after the coronation in June 1953, Churchill suffered a serious stroke. Although he recovered, the news was kept from the public. Still he hung on to power, while a successor, the foreign secretary Anthony Eden, waited increasingly impatiently in the wings. Churchill found a series of reasons to cling to office, chiefly that he must help the young queen.

Smitten with her as he was, Churchill was at best ambivalent about her husband Philip, as were many of the court, who regarded him as a foreign upstart and probably a dangerous radical. When Philip suggested that his surname, Mountbatten, should be added to the royal name of Windsor, the prime minister was strongly opposed, leading to the prince’s famous remark about himself that he was no better than “a bloody amoeba,” denied the right to his own name. Philip also suggested that the royal family should continue living at the more homely and comfortable Clarence House, only to be told by Churchill that monarchs were expected to live in Buckingham Palace. The prime minister even opposed him flying in a helicopter, asking: “Is it your intention to wipe out the royal family in the shortest possible time?” Nevertheless, Philip did eventually learn to fly aircraft—and seems to have survived.

It is not going too far to say that Churchill was rather enraptured by his young monarch and indeed contemporary observers said as much. Jock Colville, the prime minister’s private secretary, noted: “At a respectful distance he fell in love with the Queen,” while Lord Charteris, her future private secretary, stated: “One’s got to remember that Winston Churchill was old enough to be her grandfather... and I think she had him round her little finger. I think he was absolutely crazy in love with her.” ●



1950: SOFT SPOT

Britain’s wartime leader was said to dote on the Queen, who was young enough to be his granddaughter



1951: ENRAPTURED

Churchill with the then Princess Elizabeth. An ardent monarchist, Churchill believed in old-fashioned deference to the royal family



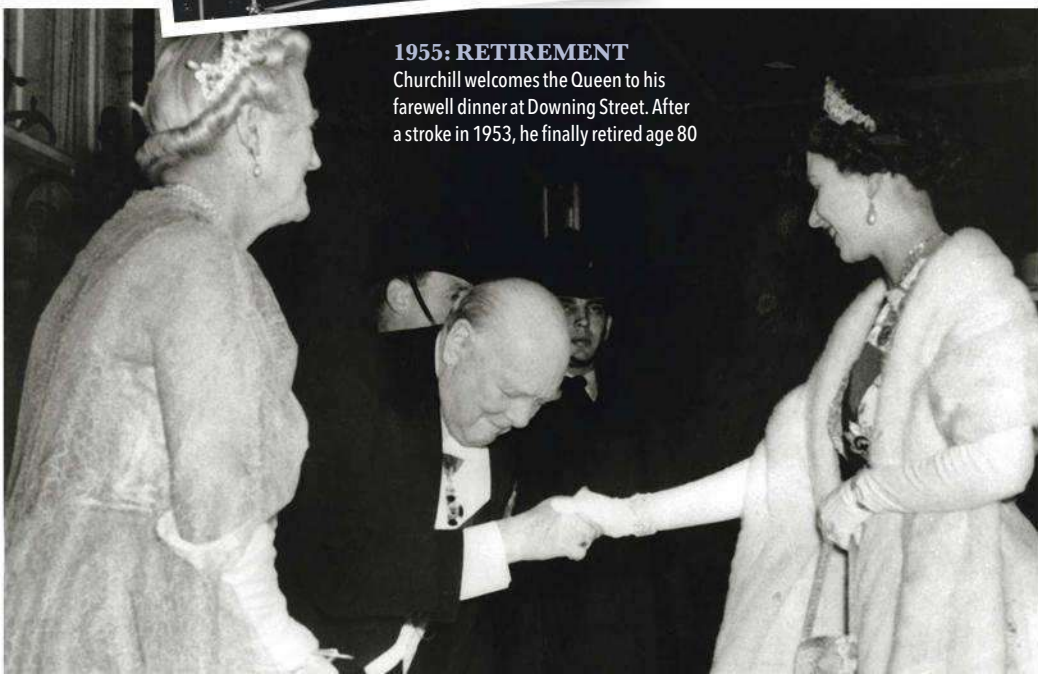
1952: SOLEMN START

Churchill and other ministers meet Elizabeth on her return from Kenya following the death of her father



1953: BIG DAY

Sir Winston and Lady Clementine Churchill leave the palace to attend Elizabeth's coronation



1955: RETIREMENT

Churchill welcomes the Queen to his farewell dinner at Downing Street. After a stroke in 1953, he finally retired age 80



John Lithgow (left) plays Winston Churchill in season one of *The Crown*

BACKSTAGE

THE REAL HISTORY BEHIND *THE CROWN*

Rambunctious, hot-tempered, stubborn and witty: this is the Winston Churchill we meet in *The Crown*. The series portrays the aging prime minister developing a close, if sometimes strained, relationship with the young Queen Elizabeth, despite the great difference in their ages and temperaments.

But just how accurate is this depiction? *The Crown* definitely captures the sentimental and almost grandfatherly deference with which Churchill is known to have treated Elizabeth, and a lot of careful research has certainly gone into the dramatization of real events.

Most critics have only found a few minor points to cavil at. Firstly, Churchill did not have a secretary called Venetia Scott, nor did the great smog of 1952 cause a conflict between the government and the Queen. Fogs were a common feature of London winters at the time, though the unusually bad conditions that year did eventually lead to the 1956 Clean Air Act. It is also very unlikely that the Queen discussed Churchill's retirement with him, and his stroke in 1953 was definitely not hidden from her as the series suggests. Nor, given his unending deference for royal authority, would Churchill have ever dreamt of kissing the Queen on the forehead.

WORDS Stephen Bates

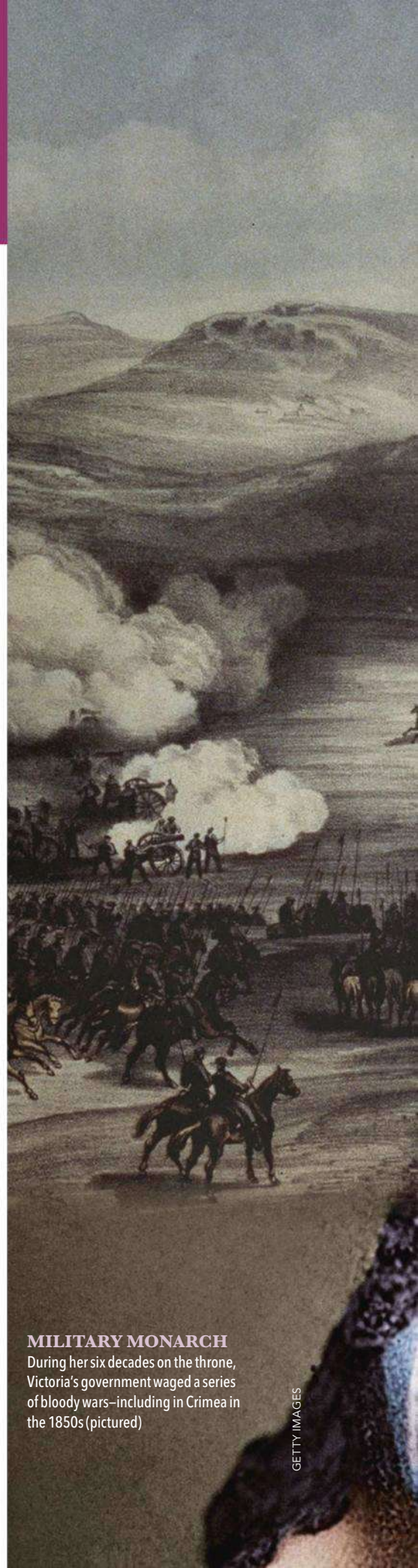
Across the Globe



Victoria Warrior Queen

From a young queen steered by her ministers to a steely voice influencing Britain's pursuit of ever more territories, Victoria played a key role in the violent expansion of the British empire

BY SAUL DAVID



MILITARY MONARCH

During her six decades on the throne, Victoria's government waged a series of bloody wars—including in Crimea in the 1850s (pictured)

GETTY IMAGES





At the time the 18-year-old Victoria became queen on June 20, 1837, Britain was the world's leading industrial power, with apparently limitless supplies of coal and iron, and a virtual monopoly of steam power. London was not only the largest city in the world, but its principal financial exchange. Victoria's navy was recognized as the ultimate referee of world affairs, while her army basked in the reputation it had won by defeating the French back in 1815 at the battle of Waterloo. Yet the British empire was, if anything, in decline. The American Revolution (1775–83) had helped to sour the notion of empire, and powerful commercial interests were arguing for free trade and against the protectionism of the 18th-century imperial system. So, when Victoria took the throne in 1837, the empire consisted of a jumbled collection of territories acquired in bits and pieces over the generations, administered partly by government and partly by chartered companies.

It is hard to believe, then, that from Victoria's accession to the death of her husband Prince Albert in 1861, the British empire almost quintupled in size, thanks to territorial acquisitions in Asia, Africa, the South Sea and Far East Asia. By the end of the 19th century it had become the greatest empire the world had ever known, covering a quarter of the Earth's surface and a quarter of its population. What made this huge initial period of growth possible was a series of ruthless wars of conquest.

The one constant in this period of unprecedented expansion, always at the center of the imperial web, was the formidable figure of Victoria herself: shaping, supporting and sometimes condemning her government's foreign policy—but never ignoring it. Though British monarchs no longer had the power to make or break governments, they still had, in the words of Victorian historian Walter Bagehot, “three great rights”: to be consulted, to encourage and to warn. Aided and abetted by her hugely underrated husband, Albert, Victoria made full use of these rights to influence government policy.

At the center in this period of unprecedented expansion was the formidable figure of Victoria

Agonies over Afghanistan

Of course, Victoria took time to find her political feet. During the lead-up to the First Afghan War of 1839–42, for example, she was briefed by her ministers but played a largely passive role. Told by her prime minister, Lord Melbourne in 1838 that mobilizing for an invasion of Afghanistan was the “right thing” to do, she made no objection. Young and inexperienced, she was content to follow the advice of her politicians.

At first all went well, with the Anglo-Indian invasion force capturing the capital of Kabul and restoring the pro-British Shah Shuja as Afghanistan's sovereign in August 1839. But after just two years of Shuja's hugely unpopular rule, a major revolt broke out in Kabul and quickly spread to the other major towns, effectively trapping the British garrisons in their forts and cantonments. With little hope of relief, the British commander at Kabul brokered a deal for the safe conduct of all British troops to the Punjab. So began a disastrous retreat from Kabul which ended, on January 13, 1842, with the infamous arrival of just a single Briton, Dr. William Brydon, at British-held Jalalabad. The rest of the 4,500-strong British force, not to mention 12,000 camp followers, had been killed or captured during the horrific march through the snow-covered passes of eastern Afghanistan.

Queen Victoria's chief concern, now, was for the fate of these British hostages, many of them women and children. For much of the summer, with the war hanging in the balance, she agonized over



THE BRITISH EMPIRE

At its height, in the early 20th century, Britain's empire—hinged on commerce and reinforced by violence—covered 14 million square miles. A sprawl of dominions, colonies and protectorates were flung across every corner of the globe, all ruled or governed by Victoria's home nation. As Britain “ruled the waves,” the country's ports thronged with ships bringing goods from far and wide. Industrialized, technologically advanced and backed by a mighty army and navy, Britain's imperial dominion quintupled in Victoria's first 24 years on the throne.



1904: WORLD DOMINATION

A map of the British empire as it stood in 1904, three years after Victoria's death. Red denotes British-ruled territories, from vast Canada to tiny Pacific islands, encompassing roughly 400 million people

1861: POWER COUPLE

Victoria and Albert both took a keen interest in Britain's wars and actively engaged with politics

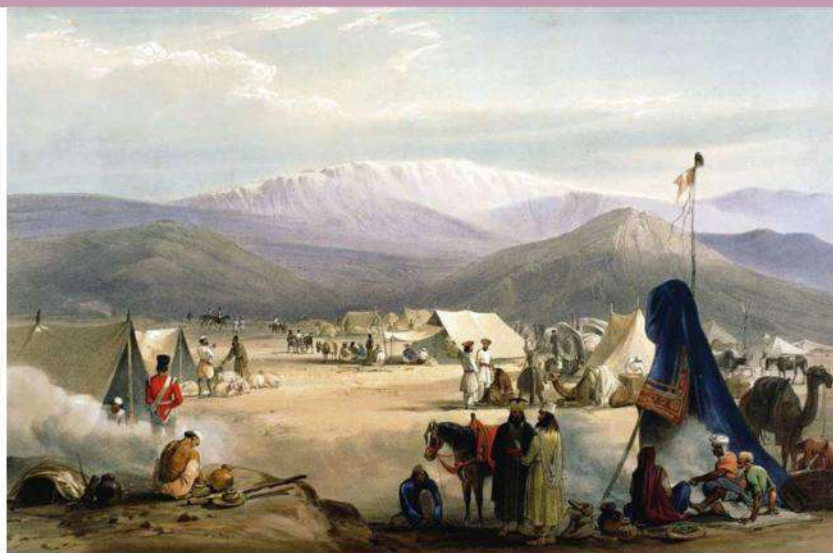


their predicament. Finally, in November, came the welcome news that British troops had recaptured Kabul and released the hostages. Such “brilliant successes” deserved recognition, wrote Victoria, and she was only too happy to approve honors for her senior commanders and a campaign medal, the first of its kind, for the troops.

The British fought a further two major and eight medium-sized wars during the first quarter century of Victoria’s reign. Victoria and Albert took a keen interest in all of them, and were staunch supporters of generals and pro-consuls who, they felt, had done their duty in difficult circumstances. So when Lord Ellenborough, the governor-general of India, was recalled in 1844 by the court of the East India Company for launching an unauthorised war against the Indian province of Sind, Victoria voiced her disapproval. The decision to sack him was, she told prime minister Robert Peel, “very unwise at this critical moment, and a very ungrateful return for the eminent services Lord Ellenborough has rendered... in India.” This time, however, the queen’s objections were not heeded.

The break-up of the Conservative party in 1846 ushered in a long period of coalition and minority governments in Britain. This meant that the monarch often held the balance of power—and Victoria was not afraid to use it. In 1850, she told Lord Palmerston, the headstrong foreign secretary, that once she had “given her sanction to a measure,” she did not expect it to be “arbitrarily altered or modified by the minister.” When, a year later, he failed to consult either the queen or his cabinet colleagues over his approval of a coup d’état in France, he was forced to resign.

Victoria’s chief concern, if British interests were involved, was whether her government understood the military consequences of its aggressive foreign policy. “The Queen wishes to ask, before she sanctions this draft,” she wrote to the foreign secretary in 1856, “whether the Cabinet have fully considered the consequences of this declaration to the Persians, which may be war; and if so, whether they are prepared to go to war with Persia, and have provided the means of carrying it on?”



1839-42: AFGHAN DISASTER Under prime minister Lord Melbourne’s advice, Victoria had backed the move into Afghanistan. She later agonized over the fate of British hostages captured in the conflict



**c1857: INDIA
RISES UP**

Gurkha soldiers recruited to support Britain’s bloody suppression of the Indian Rebellion



1854: CRIMEA BOUND In London’s Trafalgar Square, soldiers leave for the Crimea. The Scots Guard cheered the queen heartily on their departure, which Victoria declared “a touching and beautiful sight.” She later helped organize relief measures when the mismanaged campaign left forces short of supplies

GETTY IMAGES/ALAMY

The royal couple were most closely involved, both emotionally and practically, with the two major wars of the period: the Crimean War of 1853–56 (in support of Turkey against the Russians) and the Indian Rebellion of 1857–59 (a widespread mutiny against British authorities). They worked hard to keep Britain out of the former war—the first European conflict for 40 years—but when it became inevitable, they threw their energies into supporting the troops. On the departure of the Scots Guards to the war, Victoria wrote: “They formed line, presented arms, and then cheered us very heartily, and went on cheering. It was a touching and beautiful sight; many sorrowing friends were there, and one saw the shake of many a hand. My best wishes and prayers will be with them all.”

Knitting socks for the troops

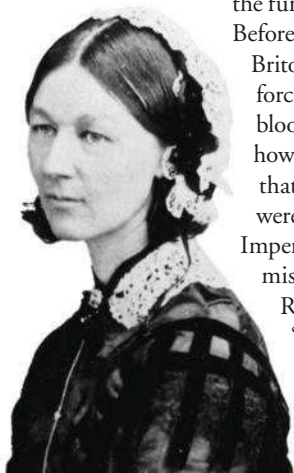
Later, when it became clear that British troops were suffering in the Crimea from a want of supplies and organization, Victoria personally superintended relief committees, knitted winter clothing (and encouraged her daughters and ladies-in-waiting to do the same) and eagerly seconded the efforts of nursing reformer Florence Nightingale. She visited soldiers in hospital and in 1856 instituted the Victoria Cross, the first all-ranks gallantry award, making it retrospective for Crimea veterans. Albert, meanwhile, was instrumental in the setting up of the Patriotic Fund, which raised £1m for the widows and orphans of the dead.

During the Indian Rebellion of 1857, Victoria’s sensitive and broad-minded reaction to rebel atrocities—“They should know there is no hatred of brown skin”—did much to calm the near hysterical cries among the British press and public for “fire and sword” retribution. And it was she who insisted that the 1858

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c1856: SOLDIERS’ SAVIOR

Victoria admired nurse Florence Nightingale’s “devotion towards the Queen’s brave soldiers”



Even when Victoria did return to public life, she was never as influential as she had been with Albert at her side

proclamation announcing the transfer of authority from the British East India Company to the Crown contained a clause guaranteeing religious freedom. Albert’s clever diplomacy may even have averted a war between Britain and the United States in December 1861. But his death a few days later was very much the end of an era, not only because the Queen withdrew from public life for years, but also because, even when she did return in 1866, she was never as effective or influential as she had been with him at her side. Disraeli admitted as much when he wrote: “With Prince Albert we have buried our sovereign. This German prince has governed England for 21 years with a wisdom and energy such as none of our kings have ever shown.”

Albert’s demise also coincided with a shift in imperial expansion from Asia to Africa that reflected the changing commercial and strategic concerns of the British government. During Victoria’s marriage only a couple of minor wars were fought in Africa (on the Cape frontier), whereas 10 were fought in Asia. Yet, of the 15 significant wars fought by Victoria’s troops after Albert’s death, 11 took place on the so-called “dark continent.” Lastly, there was a change in the fundamental character of empire. Before the Indian Rebellion, most

Britons saw the empire as a “powerful force for the spread of civilization.” So bloody were the events of the rebellion, however, that many Britons concluded that the subject peoples of the empire were not capable of being civilized. Imperial rule became, therefore, not a mission but a duty: or, as writer Rudyard Kipling so famously put it, “the White Man’s burden.” ●



In *Victoria*, the queen’s young African charge is welcomed into the strange new surroundings of the palace by servant Nancy Skerrett

BACKSTAGE

THE REAL HISTORY BEHIND VICTORIA

Although Victoria had little chance to travel the globe, she was fascinated by people from other cultures.

In the second series of *Victoria*, the queen is taken aback to be presented with a very unusual “gift”: a young African girl known as Sarah. This really did happen, and the real Sarah Forbes Bonetta led a remarkable life. Originally named Aina, and popularly thought to be a princess, she was a Yoruban from a village in southern Nigeria who was captured by King Ghezo of Dahomey in a slave-hunt in which her family was brutally killed. In an unexpected turn of events, in 1850 she was liberated by Royal Navy captain Frederick E Forbes, who transported her to England as a present for the queen. Recording the incident in her journal, Victoria wrote of Sarah: “She is seven years old, sharp and intelligent, and speaks English.”

As portrayed in *Victoria*, the gentle but homesick little girl captures the heart of the queen, who hopes to bring her up in the palace. Yet while we do know that the real Sarah greatly impressed Victoria with her remarkable intelligence and musical talent, in reality she was never invited to stay with the royal family long-term. Instead, Victoria paid for her to be cared for by schools and guardians in England and Sierra Leone.

Nevertheless, it is clear that the queen cared for Sarah, who became her goddaughter and continued to visit the palace regularly throughout her life. Sarah even named her first child Victoria in honour of the queen.

WORDS Ellie Cawthorne



Across the Globe

1982: ISLAND-HOPPING

Traditional canoes bring the Queen ashore on a tour of Tuvalu, a remote island nation in the Pacific Ocean



1995: WALKABOUT In South Africa, large crowds gather to catch a glimpse of Her Majesty

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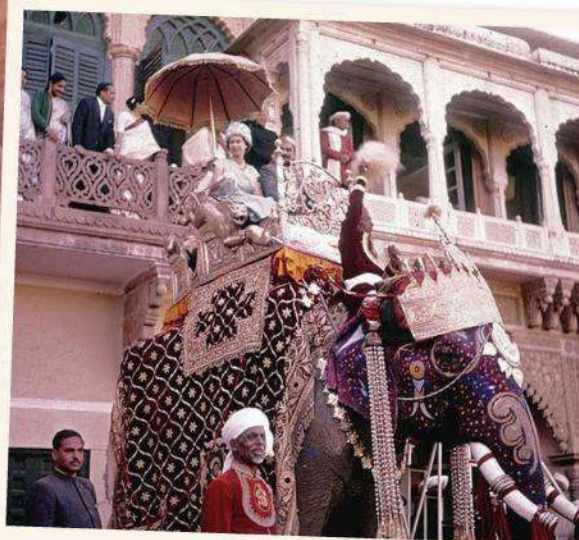
1977: NON-STOP

Leaving Fiji, one of the countries she visited to mark her silver jubilee



1970: WOMAN OF THE WORLD

No other British monarch has traveled as much as the Queen



1961: STRONG TIES Although India had been independent of British rule since 1947, vast crowds welcomed the Queen

Elizabeth Around the World

...in 275 foreign visits

Unlike Victoria—who never left Europe—Queen Elizabeth has traveled the world throughout her reign. We track the role that the globe-trotting monarch has played on the international stage

BY STEPHEN BATES



1961: SAFE TRIP?

The Queen insisted on visiting Ghana despite a spate of bombings in the weeks before



Elizabeth II is certainly the most traveled monarch in British history and maybe the most traveled leader of all time, given that she has been at it for longer than most. The royal family's website estimates that the Queen has so far traveled an incredible 10,032,513 miles around the world during her 66 years on the throne: the equivalent of 402 circles of the earth.

That is the result of around 275 official overseas visits. In fact, there have been very few countries that the Queen has not visited. Cuba and North Korea are among these, as their governments would not welcome it. More surprisingly, the list includes Greece and Israel—the former because of Prince Philip's fraught family ties to the former Greek monarchy and the latter presumably because of security concerns. Everywhere else she has been



welcomed, even in countries that were unstable and violent. In 1961, she ventured into Ghana despite serious threats to assassinate Kwame Nkrumah, the revolutionary leader who had become the country's first president. She also visited Quebec City at the height of militant French Canadian struggles to break free from the Anglophone rest of the country in 1964—although the protests meant she has not returned to the city since (indeed none of the family formally ventured back until the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's visit in 2011).

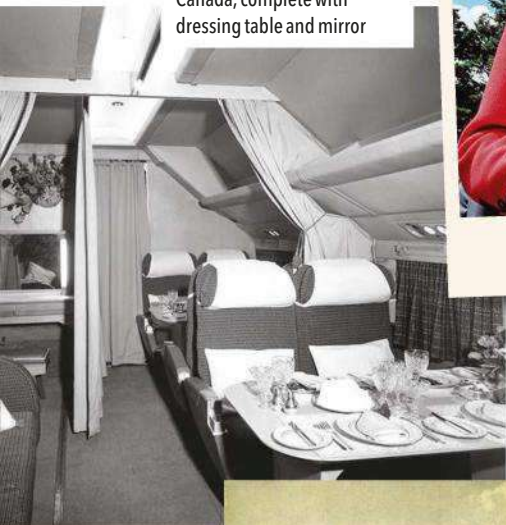
During one of the surges of republicanism in Australia in 1988, the Queen (who remains Queen of Australia, as well as New Zealand and Canada) went to open the new parliament building in Canberra.

The Queen is perhaps the most traveled leader of all time, making an estimated 275 official foreign visits

GETTY IMAGES

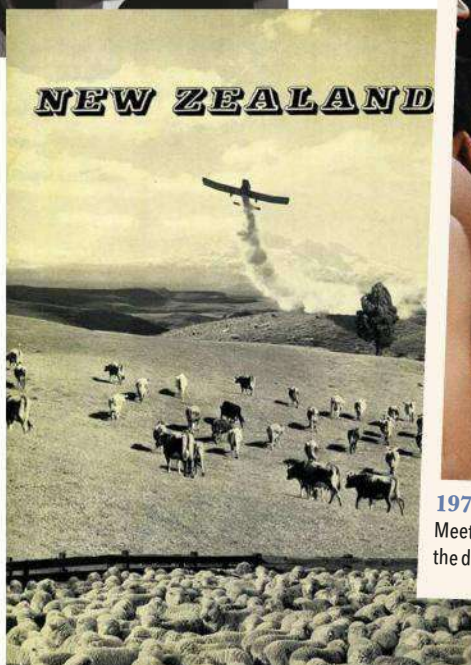
1957: AIR MILES

Inside the private plane used by the Queen for a trip to Canada, complete with dressing table and mirror



1997: ALL SMILES Elizabeth on a 10-day trip to Canada. It is one of 16 countries that still have the Queen as their head of state

Her Majesty has
visited Canada 22 times
—more than any
other country



1977: FAR AFIELD
Meeting New Zealand Maori during
the decade in which she traveled most

One of the demonstrators outside, Dr. Jane Connors, told the journalist Robert Hardman: "We were all protesting and chanting. But then the Queen arrived and we fell silent. It was funny but we just couldn't boo the Queen."

From despots to film stars

Even leaders who might not be thought instinctively monarchist have been charmed. The Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev declared Queen Elizabeth completely unpretentious after taking tea with her. Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe refrained from criticizing her

even during the nastiest of his anti-British rhetoric—after all, he had once enjoyed a stay at Buckingham Palace during a state visit.

Mugabe is not the only world leader with a questionable human rights record that the Queen has met over the years. It was reported that she hid in the shrubbery when she spotted the Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife Elena heading towards her during a stroll in the palace grounds. And she positively drew the line in 1973 when the wife of Zaire's despotic President Mobutu Sese Seko, named Marie Antoinette, smuggled her

pet dog through customs and ordered steak for it from the Buckingham Palace kitchens: the animal was promptly placed in kennels at Heathrow. The Queen doesn't often show emotion, but officials reported she was white with fury at the Mobutus' presumption in flouting strict British quarantine laws.

It is conservatively estimated that the Queen has met more than one million people during her travels in Britain and abroad, though she has hardly got to know many of them individually beyond a brief handshake and maybe a few words. Those who have had longer to chat include nearly →



2011: PRESIDENTS
The Queen hailed the UK's special relationship with the US during President Obama's visit



1956: FILM STARS
Hollywood royalty—actress Marilyn Monroe—meets real royalty at a London film premiere

a quarter of all the US presidents who have ever lived, from Truman to Obama (excepting only Johnson and, so far, Trump), five popes and just about every major celebrity of the last 70 years, from Marilyn Monroe (born six weeks after the Queen) and Frank Sinatra to Daniel Craig and Angelina Jolie.

The Commonwealth queen

If any countries are closest to her heart, they are surely those in the Commonwealth of Nations. One of the largest international organizations in the world, the Commonwealth is made up of 52 member states, which are mainly former colonies of the British empire. This group comprises nearly a third of the world's population, 20 percent of its land area and 14 percent of its trade.

The idea of the Commonwealth started in the late 1940s as Britain's colonies began to peel away. Most joined the organization, in which they now sit as independent and equal states—the tiniest, the Pacific island nation of Tuvalu (population 10,640 at the last count in 2012) having the same say as India (1.3 billion). Among the member states of the Commonwealth, there are 31 republics

and five monarchies, headed by separate royals, but 16 countries still have the British queen as their head of state: these so-called “realms” include Canada, Australia, New Zealand and a clutch of Caribbean islands.

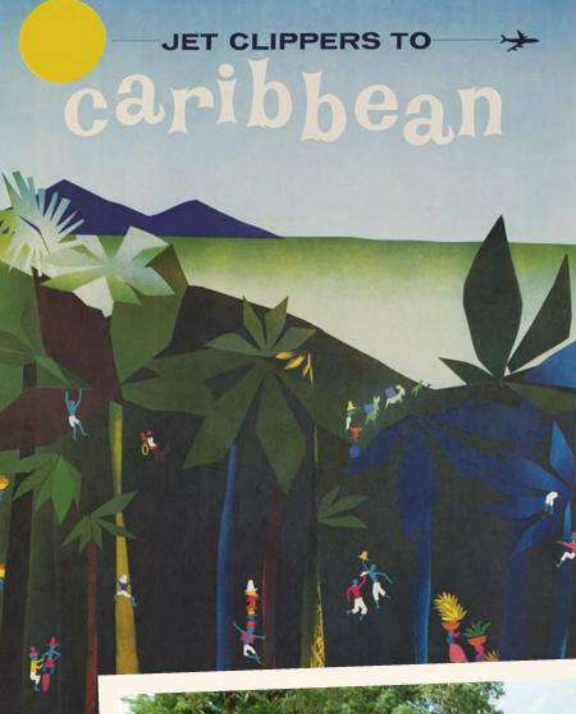
The Queen heads the Commonwealth not as a right but out of respect, and it often seems that she is its most enthusiastic member, championing the sometimes fractious organization at every opportunity and, until the last few years, visiting member states and the meetings of its



1996: WELCOME VISIT South African President Nelson Mandela enjoyed a four-day stay at the palace. In her role promoting international relations, the Queen has hosted over 100 visits by heads of state

The Commonwealth of Nations includes **52 states**, covering **20 percent** of the world's land and nearly **one third** of the global population





16 COUNTRIES
have the Queen
as their head
of state



The Crown suggests that the glamor of the Kennedys may have made the Queen feel insecure and old fashioned

BACKSTAGE

THE REAL HISTORY BEHIND
THE CROWN

The Queen has met nearly a quarter of all the US presidents, but it is her encounter with the 35th president that is explored in *The Crown's* second season. It's June 1961 and Britain is buzzing as John F. Kennedy and his wife Jackie are expected in London, with an invitation to dine at Buckingham Palace.

Writer Peter Morgan imagines that the visiting couple's popularity and glamor, particularly that of the First Lady, might have caused the Queen to feel old fashioned or out-of-touch. Indeed, we see Elizabeth learn of criticism uttered by Jackie Kennedy during a dinner party, in which she branded the monarchy "outdated" and the Queen "incurious."

Although there is no evidence that the Queen was aware of such comments, there are sources that suggest the First Lady was critical of the Queen: in a 1995 memoir, American writer Gore Vidal wrote that Mrs. Kennedy had reported the Queen to be "pretty heavy going."

The Crown goes on to link the Kennedys' visit with the Queen's 1961 visit to Ghana, suggesting that Elizabeth went to the newly independent country partly in order to prove her worth to the presidential couple. Though the Queen did go to Ghana in 1961 (and did dance the foxtrot with Ghana's first president Kwame Nkrumah), her visit was more likely a diplomatic bid to maintain good relationships with the country rather than an attempt to counter Jackie's disparaging comments.

WORDS Elinor Evans



1994: CROWD PLEASER
Anguillian residents are thrilled to meet the monarch during her visit to the British Caribbean territory

In the United States, people are more knowledgeable about the royal family than ever before

heads of government regularly. It is believed that she was deeply unhappy with the British prime minister Margaret Thatcher's opposition to the Commonwealth instituting sanctions against apartheid South Africa in the 1980s (the Queen was one of the first world leaders to meet Nelson Mandela on his release from prison), and was also said to be distressed by the US government's invasion to overthrow the government of Grenada, a Commonwealth realm, in 1983.

The Queen's popularity in Britain is now probably as high as at any time

during her reign—three-quarters of those answering a recent poll thought she should continue as monarch—but she finds that she is welcomed wherever she goes, including the United States (five official visits) and her most visited country, Canada (22 times).

It is notable that in the US, a country that violently threw off the British monarchy 240 years ago, many people are more fascinated and knowledgeable about the royal family than ever—surely a testament to Queen Elizabeth's enduring influence and popularity. ●



1948: TREND SETTERS

The young princesses were a focus for glamor and fashion in postwar Britain

Dressing to Impress

From haute couture and evening glitz to chic working wardrobes fit for touring the globe, we trace how royal fashion has evolved during Elizabeth's six decades on the throne

GETTY IMAGES/MARY EVANS



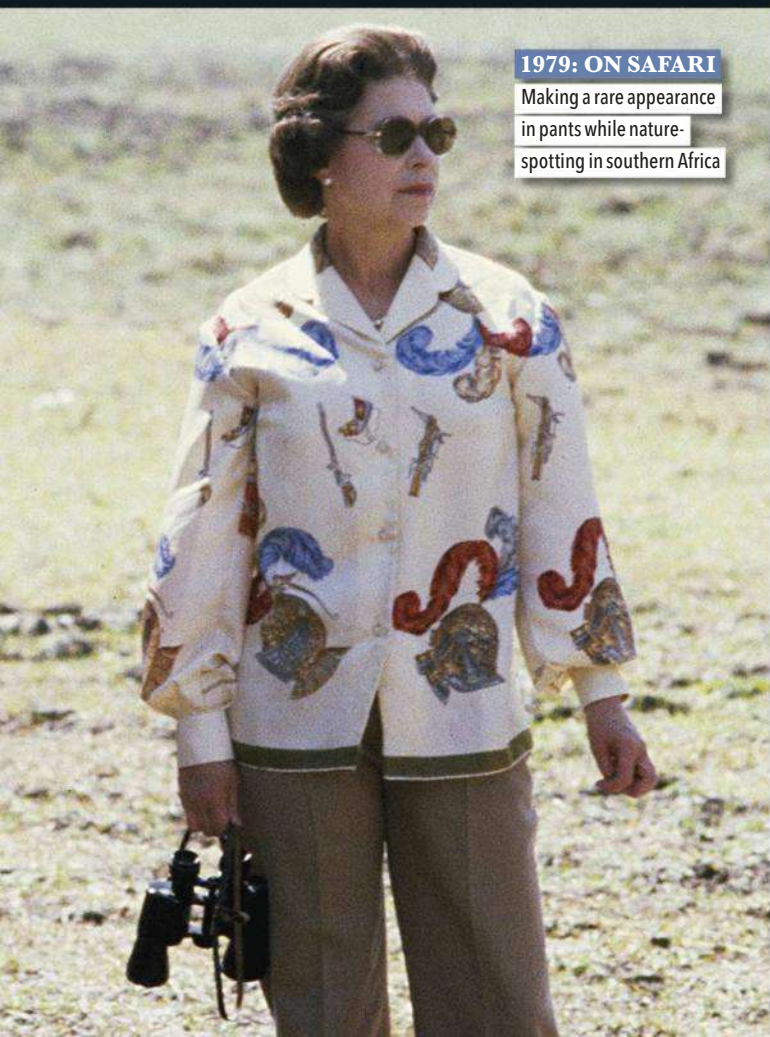
1970: BRIGHT SIDE

In lemon yellow on an overseas tour. Bold, block colours have long been a signature look to help the Queen stand out in a crowd



MATCHMAKER

Shades may vary, but the Queen's hardworking wardrobe is always immaculately coordinated



1979: ON SAFARI

Making a rare appearance in pants while nature-spotting in southern Africa



2001: GOLDEN GOWN

Resplendent in Hardy Amies (whose sketches are also seen on the opposite page), official dressmaker to the Queen for 50 years



1949: SIBLING STYLE

The Queen's younger sister Margaret became a royal fashion icon with a reputation for making daring and glamorous clothing choices



GETTY IMAGES

1976: LAID BACK

Princess Margaret's informal style reflected a free-spirited life, less encumbered by royal duty



1967: TROPICAL TASTE

Margaret in a colourful print dress in the Bahamas with husband the Earl of Snowdon



1962: ON DUTY

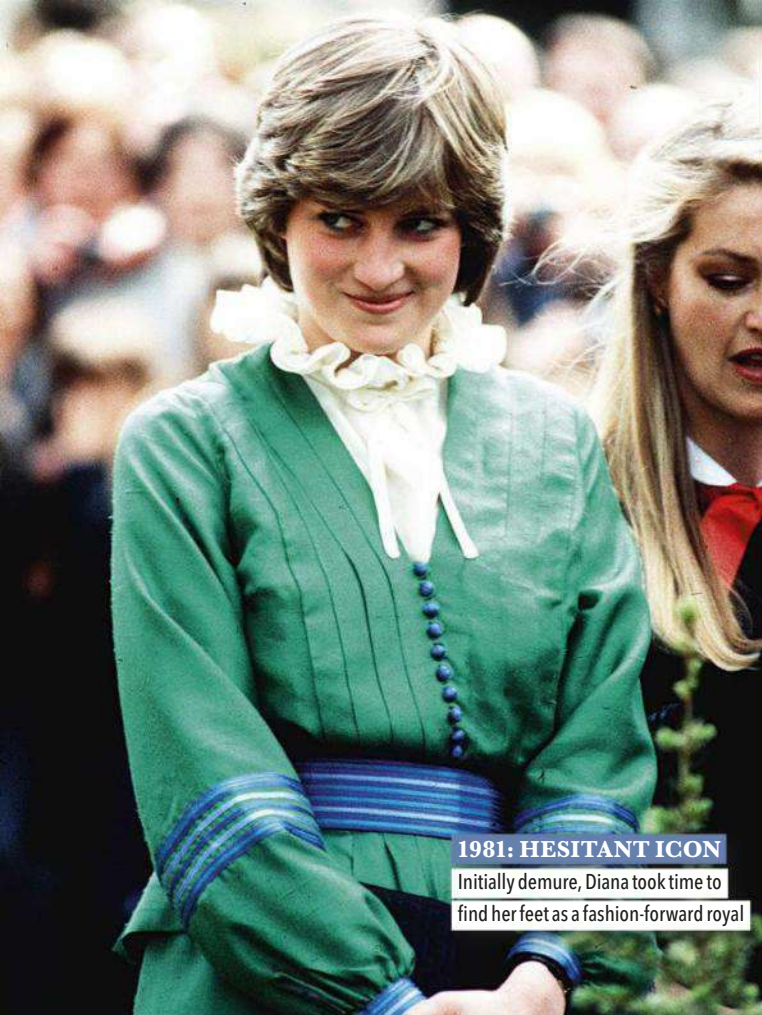
Margaret would still dress conservatively when the occasion demanded



**1991: SPARKLE
AND GLAMOR**

Diana's flair for glittering
evening wear created a
frenzy of media interest





1981: HESITANT ICON

Initially demure, Diana took time to find her feet as a fashion-forward royal



1984: NO FRILLS

Stepping out in fairytale chiffon: the princess later went on to embrace a more contemporary look



SLEEK CHIC

Diana cast an elegant silhouette for her role in the spotlight



NEW LOOK

Catherine seems influenced by the Queen's classic taste, while Meghan brings her own 21st-century style to the family





The Next Windsors

Elizabeth—like Victoria before her—has overseen vast changes both in society and in the monarchy itself. As attention increasingly focuses on William, Catherine, Harry and Meghan, how will the new generation keep the royal family relevant?

BY VICTORIA ARBITER

At the time of the Queen's accession on February 6, 1952, postwar Britain was a largely white, Christian country at the center of a crumbling empire. Men dominated politics and industry, while the majority of women remained at home to raise their children. Since then, social changes in the country have been enormous. Today, the Queen rules over a culturally diverse nation where women are often the primary breadwinners, and multiple faiths live side by side. Over the course of her record-breaking reign, she has witnessed one of the most progressive and enlightened times in British history, but, much like her predecessor Victoria, she has also had to adapt and evolve in order to maintain the monarchy's relevance in changing times.

A stickler for tradition and protocol, the Queen has at times found it difficult to bend

Moving forward

A stickler for tradition and protocol, the Queen has at times found it difficult to bend—a prime example being the issue of whether or not to fly the Union Flag at half-mast over Buckingham Palace during the week following Diana's death in 1997. However, overall she has recognized the changing needs of the nation and, in many ways, she has been

unafraid to do away with unpopular outdated practices in order to help keep the monarchy up to date.

In 1958 she put an end to the presentation of the debutantes at Buckingham Palace, which historically marked the start of the aristocratic social season. In doing so she paved the way for less formal events to take place and allowed a broader cross-section of society to visit the palace. She made meeting and greeting as many people as possible on “walkabouts” the norm, recognizing that, as she herself said: “I have to be seen to be believed.” She also opened Buckingham Palace to the paying public for a few months of the year and oversaw changes in the laws to succession (which allowed first-born daughters to take precedence over younger-born brothers) and permitted future heirs to marry Roman Catholics (even though they themselves may not convert to Catholicism). During

GETTY IMAGES

2016: THREE KINGS

The Queen with her family, including heirs Charles, William and George



2017: MODERN ROMANCE

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle are keen to keep the royals' image up to date



2005: NEXT IN LINE

Prince Charles and his wife Camilla will be the next heads of the family



her sovereignty the royal family overhauled its finances, leading to a 1992 agreement for the Queen to start paying income tax.

The royal family has also been open to embracing technological change, as well as social. The Victorian era was characterized by rapid transformations and developments in virtually every arena. In this time of prosperity, broad expansion and great reform, Prince Albert—a staunch champion of the latest innovations and advances of the age—was keen for the monarchy to keep up. The current Queen similarly realized the necessity of moving with the times. In 1969, she allowed television cameras behind palace walls for the first time, resulting in the film *Royal Family*, which gave the public a glimpse of the monarch off-duty, as they had never seen her before. From her coronation to the present day, cameras have captured virtually every major royal milestone in Elizabeth's reign. Today the monarchy has its own website, as well as a presence on YouTube, Facebook and Instagram. As had been done for generations of royal babies before, the

Catherine and Meghan bring the royal family closer to the ordinary public

announcement of Prince George's birth in 2013 was placed on an easel in the forecourt at Buckingham Palace, but only after the happy news had been shared around the world via Twitter.

Family first

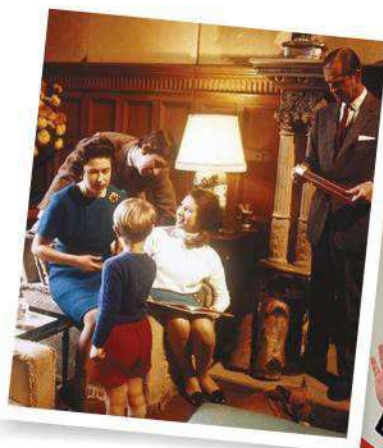
During Queen Victoria's reign, family values remained very much at the core of society. Strict moral standards were in place, driven in part by the suffering Prince Albert endured following the divorce of his parents, both of whom had been involved in public sex scandals.

Though Victoria's loving and happy marriage to Albert was tragically cut short by his death in 1861, Queen Elizabeth has been fortunate to carry out her long reign with the support of a consort as devoted to duty as she is. Prince Philip, her "strength and stay," may have announced his retirement at the age of 95 in 2017, but there's no question his constant presence has been one of the cornerstones of her success.

It is on the home front, however, that the Queen has perhaps struggled the most. Though she celebrated her own platinum wedding anniversary in November 2017—the first British monarch to do so—three of her four children's marriages have ended in divorce. Perhaps her greatest struggle between personal and public life came in the early 1950s, when the Queen refused to condone the marriage of her sister Margaret to the divorced Group Captain Peter Townsend, on the basis that the Church of England (of which the Queen is head) didn't permit remarriage after divorce. One can only imagine how trying it was for the Queen on a personal



1958: DEBS OUT The Queen scrapped the annual aristocratic debutantes ceremony



1969: TV DEBUT The nation saw behind the scenes in the TV documentary *Royal Family*



1955/2017: CHANGING TIMES While Princess Margaret was prevented from marrying a divorcé, there have been no barriers to Harry's marriage to divorced Meghan Markle

2014: BABY ON BOARD Children are now an important fixture of modern royal tours



GETTY IMAGES



2017: FRESH PRINCE

Family man William with Catherine, George and Charlotte

level to prevent her sister from marrying the man she loved.

Fast forward 50 years to 2005 and Prince Charles, a divorcé himself, was permitted to marry fellow divorcée Camilla Parker Bowles. Although the Queen chose not to attend the civil ceremony, she was present at the couple's church blessing. Now another 13 years on, it has been confirmed that the Queen will be in attendance at the wedding of Prince Harry to the divorced American actress Meghan Markle. One can't help but imagine Margaret being rather thrilled by the prospect of Prince Harry marrying a young divorcée without facing any royal condemnation.

The next generation

Queen Victoria detested babies, and thought them to be ugly frog-like things. Even though she loved her nine children, they were more than just family members—they served a political purpose for

marrying off to foreign allies. Although things had shifted dramatically a hundred years later, Queen Elizabeth also struggled with the burden of being both a leader of the land and a young mother in her early years. Following her coronation, she was forced to leave Prince Charles and Princess Anne at home as she embarked on a six-month tour around the world.

However, times have since changed, expectations have changed, and the British public is in favor of raising children lovingly prepared for the role that awaits. Today, children are very much at the forefront of royal life. The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are preparing to welcome their third child in April 2018, and the couple have made it very clear that, for the time being at least, family comes first. Thanks in part to the influence of Diana, William and Catherine have been able to take George and later Charlotte on their tours to Australia, Canada, Poland and Germany.

IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Thanks to changes in the succession laws in 2013, fourth-in-line Charlotte could one day be queen, even if she gets new brothers—but only if Prince George doesn't go on to have any children.



Wherever possible, their duties were scheduled so as to allow them to be home to oversee bath and bedtime.

Some might say the younger generation has it easier. Where Princess Margaret had to give up her divorced love for fear of the consequences, Prince Harry is being permitted to marry a divorcée without the slightest whiff of scandal. Unlike the Queen herself, William and Catherine have been given free rein to focus on their young family, as opposed to putting country first. Though not the first "commoners" to marry into the royal family, both Catherine and Meghan bring the royal family closer to the ordinary public, by making themselves more accessible to the masses.

During her 2017 Christmas address, the Queen once again referenced the blessings of home and family. Now in her twilight years, she can draw comfort in knowing that the line of succession is safe, thanks to the three kings in waiting. Natural order dictates that Charles will come first, but youth remains the key to keeping the monarchy relevant. Elizabeth is keen for family members to find their own way, but her finest legacy may be in leaving the single greatest blueprint of any previous monarch. Future success, therefore, rests on the shoulders of the newly dubbed "Fab Four": William, Catherine, Harry and Meghan. This new generation is sure to keep the monarchy up to date, and it seems they have the world at their feet. ●



Elizabeth & Victoria

EDITORIAL

Editor Ellie Cawthorne

ellie.cawthorne@immediate.co.uk

Production Editor Jane Williamson

Art Editor Susanne Frank

Designer Seth Singh

Picture Editor Samantha Nott

Deputy Picture Editor Katherine Hallett

Picture Researcher Lisa Moses

Editorial Production Margaret Harris, Sue Wingrove

Thanks to Elinor Evans, Sarah Lambert, Spencer Mizen

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Content Director David Musgrove

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Jointly created and published by Immediate Media UK
and New Portal Media, LLC (www.NewPortalMedia.com)



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Cover pictures: Alamy/Getty Images/Shutterstock/Netflix

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Victoria Arbiter is an experienced broadcaster, who serves as royal commentator for CNN, having previously held the role with CBS News and ABC News. She is the author of *Queen Elizabeth II* for Pocket Giants (History Press, 2016). Victoria examines Elizabeth's coronation (page 30), the royal palaces (page 48), Her Majesty's family relations (page 62) and the next generation of Windsors (page 94).

Stephen Bates is a former royal correspondent of *The Guardian* and the author of *Royalty Inc: Britain's Best-Known Brand* (Aurum Press, 2015). Stephen looks at the Queen's relationship with Winston Churchill on page 72 and her globe-trotting reign on page 82.

Denys Blakeway is a documentary producer and writer. He was the executive producer of *Queen Victoria's Children*, a three-part series made for the BBC in 2016. On page 54 Denys looks at the fraught reality behind Victoria's "ideal" family.

Ellie Cawthorne is a journalist and writer specialising in history, who has also presented radio documentaries. On page 32 she examines the achievements of Victoria's husband Albert, then on page 68 she introduces four figures who forged close friendships with Queen Victoria.

Saul David is a historian, broadcaster and professor of military history whose books include *The Indian Mutiny* (Penguin, 2004) and *Victoria's Wars* (Penguin, 2007). On page 76 he examines Victoria's connection to the violent expansion of the British empire.

Elinor Evans is a journalist specialising in history. On pages 27 and 87 she reveals some of the real history that inspired the Netflix drama *The Crown*.

Sarah Gristwood is a broadcaster and author of several historical works, including *Elizabeth: The Queen and Crown* (Pavilion, 2017) and *Game of Queens* (Oneworld, 2017). She examines the parallels between the two queens on page 8 and also Prince Philip's life as a consort on page 40.

Kate Williams is a professor of history and the author of *Becoming Queen* (Hutchinson, 2008) and *Young Elizabeth* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2012). On page 14 she tells us about Victoria's difficult upbringing and on page 20 she traces Elizabeth's life before she was queen.

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